

TRUDEAU ON HAITI | HAS THE RIGHT REALLY UNITED?

MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

OCTOBER 27 2003

5 WAYS TO MAKE CANADIANS HEALTHIER



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FEEL-GOOD POLITICS

Effective democracy is finally making a comeback. The question is: do you care?

I **RAN INTO** an acquaintance recently who is—was for in—running for elected office. He's smart, decent, professionally accomplished, popular and well connected: he could have his pick of jobs in the private sector (and will, if he doesn't win). He's also never looked happier or more fulfilled than now he has the formulation of policy, the cut and thrust of debate, the interaction with voters. All those qualities make him dreading spending how you

look at it, either a dream candidate—or a crazy guy for winning to do this.

When it comes to politics these days, there are two kinds of people—those who care passionately, and those who truly, deeply, don't. The latter, don't-care group is obviously ascendant. Voter participation at federal, provincial and municipal levels has been dropping over the years, and as is the general public perception of politics, do we really need to quantify that?

There are lots of theories as to why and why politicians become so unpopular since what they brought in on themselves through their dogged unwillingness to ever give citizens—or appear to take any politicians today are like those blue-up dolls that used to be popular with kids but then hard enough to knock them over, and they pay back up with that same emptiness. Too many politicians focus more on protecting themselves from mistakes than enhancing their strengths, the result is a product so gaudy that it's patently phony. If you ask a politician a tough question, and he or she flashes a winky smile and says, "I'm so glad you raised that," you both know that's not true, and things go downhill from there.

The most successful politicians look and sound like average people—business, grammar, common sense and all. That's been true of everyone from George W. Bush to Jean Chrétien to Ralph Klein to Mike Harris. One lesson of the California recall vote was the depth of voter anger people felt traditional politicians weren't playing straight with them. So in a race where voters felt that no one was what they claimed to be, an actor—whose fame was admittedly built on scripts created for him by other people—seemed more honest and transparent.

As we enter a period of wide-ranging

“There are reasons to be optimistic about what lies ahead—new people, new ideas, clearer choices.”

domestic political change, there's reason to hope for some positive developments. Whatever Chrétien's reasons for hanging around for 18 months after his retirement announcement, a co-opting national vision hasn't been among them. Politics without passion is boring, which is another reason why people are out. Paul Martin is, by my measure, passionate. That forces others to be the same way—which should be inspiring.

At the same time, the Canadian Alliance and Tories already know where they disagree, so the air is clear on that score. The proposed merger of the two right-leaning federal parties (pages 108 and 104) should bring more focus to national debates. Ditto a renewed NDP under Jack Layton. Since the Tories' collapse in 1993 and the fragmentation of opposition to the Liberals, effective democracy has been on a level of a nuisance. That's over. There are reasons to feel good about the political process that lies ahead—with new people, some new ideas, new and clearer choices. Just one question: do you care?

Anthony Wilson-Smith

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MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



THE FACE OF HUMANITY

The images on display at the World Press Photo exhibition in Toronto this week pay tribute to news photographers who go out of their way and against the grain to cover stories that should have been news, but weren't.

The exhibit of 200 photographs, being shown at the Alice Lambert Gallery at Toronto's BCE place until Oct. 25, draws viewers to some of the most powerful images captured in 2002.

The World Press Photo of the Year, for one, shows a fearful boy crouched at the edge of a newly dug grave, clutching a pair of trousers as a group of men prepare to bury his father. The child's father was one of more than 500 victims of an earthquake that struck Iraq's Quazvin Province on June 23, 2002. The stark photo of the grieving child depicts an intimate and universal image of loss, says Marc Priest, project manager with the Amsterdam-based World Press Photo Foundation. "You feel the child's pain," he says. "It's something everyone can relate to."

The photo was rejected by every press agency approached by Armenian-American photographer Eric Grigorian. "They said it was old news—the earthquake had happened more than 48 hours earlier," Priest explains. "Grigorian also got the sense that the scale of the tragedy was considered insufficient—that more people had to die in a third world country for it to be newsworthy."

The annual exhibition, which will be shown in 40 countries, depends on local sponsors like Maclean's, says Lesley Sparks, the Toronto event's organizer. "Maclean's involvement gives the exhibition a broad national profile and demonstrates the magazine's commitment to what the show represents—the power of the photographic image and the freedom of the press," says Sparks.

For further information about the World Press Photo exhibit and to see a sampling of the photos on display, visit www.picturesofus.com.

Visit www.macleans.ca to view Maclean's photo galleries.
For further information about this article, contact behindthescenes@macleans.ca.

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'The profiles of our troops in Afghanistan brought home to me the real struggles and triumphs of these outstanding Canadians.' — JOHN GERRARD, *Barrie Daily*

Casualties of peace

Now that we have lost two more brave soldiers in the line of duty ("In harm's way," *Cover*, Oct. 12), isn't it time we re-evaluated our position in Afghanistan? Does it enhance our defence or does it enhance the international political position of Jean Chrétien? Our people are getting killed because passion and previous Liberal governments have allowed the Canadian Forces to become strategically and functionally inept. The systemic decay of the Canadian military can be blamed on the federal Liberals. Our military has no heavy-airlift capability. Our Aurora patrol aircraft, Hercules transporters and Sea King helicopters remain idly only because of the ingenuity and dedication of their aircraft maintenance organizations. Our CF-18s are in dire need of technical and mechanical upgrades. Our Vimerra class submarines are a costly international joke. We don't have enough credible warships in our fleet to be called a navy. Let's not forget that it was our vindictive little Prime Minister who debauched the *Aviation Register*. And we still need a Sea King replacement. Chrétien should bring our people home and give them the appropriate resources and equipment to complete their tasks.

Samuel Girard, Fredericton

The national given by senior military staff and Defence Department officials for continued use of the lightly armoured line we took in the size of the explosion that killed Sgt. Robert Short and Cpl. Robbie Benson (finger was so big even a Mercedes or Hummer would not have offered adequate protection. Perhaps, but the headlines might have read "Finger injured," instead of "Two dead, three injured.")

Eric Kirkpatrick, Vancouver

The profile of Lt. Chris Nobrega ("On guard against an unseen foe," *Cover*, Oct. 12) describes a greatly person of Canada's role in Afghanistan. All Canadians should salute his efforts to win the hearts and minds of a people shrouded by war for too long.

G. James Thomson, Coquitlam, B.C.

MACLEAN'S IN HARM'S WAY

Two dead, three injured. What's next for the forces in Afghanistan?



Hurricane-force fury

When the lights went out in Toronto not so long ago, we were swamped with television and print coverage across Canada. Macdonald gave us cover and rare pages of stories, photos and facts ("Unplugged," *Cover*, Aug. 25). Then Hurricane Juan hit Nova Scotia, or causes a Maclean in Halifax that lasts up to three times the length of the Toronto outage. It destroys Point Pleasant Park to a point that makes my stomach turn just thinking about it and the fishing communities along the coast are shattered. What cover-

Feeling exposed | When following the drill isn't enough protection

Photographer Dillip Mehta, in Afghanistan, took pictures of soldiers for our Oct. 12 cover package, went on two patrols in this zone just before two Canadian soldiers in one of those vehicles were killed by a land mine. "Heavy truck," he says, "hit me, and the soldiers got out of the vehicle and the floor of the vehicle." He says, after the incident, "I noticed about the discomfort, only to realize now that safety precautions were inadequate but wouldn't be sufficient. It's all so bleak."

age does Macdonald's affect? A two-column piece and two pictures ("A mighty blow," *Weather*, Oct. 12). *Pathetic*.

David McQuibb, Halifax

Everything old is new again

As I read "Cool cars" (*Cover*, Sept. 29), I couldn't help but think that some of the so-called "new" developments and features on automobiles are not so new. While some environmentally minded consumers these days are buying the Toyota Prius or Honda Insight, about 100 years ago electric environmentally challenged gasoline-powered vehicles for supremacy. The electric cars were quieter and smoother, but consumers eventually favoured the higher speeds offered by gas-powered cars. Now we are realizing that speed comes at the expense of our environment. The world admires GM's Envoy XLV, with a four-foot section of the roof that stretches to accommodate tall objects. A similar sliding roof was available on Studebaker station wagons from 1963 to 1966. As for the tent on the back of the Pontiac Aztek, that was also an option on the 1949 Kaiser Vagabond. It was a four-door sedan with a folding backseat, a drop-down trunk lid and a flip-up rear window. The idea was revived on several hatchbacks of the 1970s, including my 1975 Pontiac Vents. Resting popular styling trends of the past—with so-called retro vehicles like the Beetle, Chevy SSR, Mini, Nissan 2000Z and T-Bird—has also been tried before. Many developments are making vehicles safer, smarter and more enjoyable. But sometimes what is billed as "new" is really a refinement and repackaging of old ideas.

Bob Johnson, Regina

Male mortality

If men were living 5.5 years longer than women, rather than the other way around (*Science Health*, Up Front, Oct. 12), there would be need-the-clock repair conversations about why this was so. You say it's partially because men take more risks than women, but surely? A large part of the reason women outlive men is that since 1901 the heavy lifting in society—risky construction work, combat positions in the military, and how many of the 343 fire "fighters" who died on 9/11—was women? The answer is zero, but, hey, we've got the terminology right.

Derek van Gassen, Markham, Ont.



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Lunch and learning

It saddened me to read T. Lindey's response to "Lunchroom bedlam" (Cover, Sept. 22) in *The Mail* of Oct. 6. How is it that the lunchroom problems are the focus of teachers? Does lack of sufficient funding for room costs not factor in? I find it difficult to see how the present values lunchroom (arguing, bull, roasts or bus) supervision for teachers over time spent giving students extra help, preparing more engaging lessons, staying in touch with parents, etc. I love teaching. I'm not asking for a medal, just don't label me a complainer for wanting to do more of just that: meaningful teaching.

Andy McIlwaine, Plover, Wis.

Yes, my husband chose teaching as a career, but does that mean he should work 20 to 30 extra hours weekly for free? Blame the education system (thanks to Ralph Abigail's cue) if there is no funding for adequate lunchroom facilities for poor children. Don't blame the teachers!

Katharine Byrnington, Commerce, Ala.

The younger children at my daughter's school are supervised at lunchtime by older children referred to as Lunch Angels. My daughter loves the Lunch Angels who come into her classroom and take turns eating with the children. She knows that the girls know the children, that they sit down with them and help with the little things. She hopes one day to become a Lunch-Angel herself.

Yvonne Berthoud, Winnipeg

Teacher/learner

I am a passionate advocate of the computer as a tool of unsurpassable potential in classroom settings, so the comment that "the jury is very much out" as to whether computers help students learn struck a painful chord. Decisions about technology have been driven by one question, and that is how to improve the effectiveness of what schools are already doing.

Increasing test scores. This is a message not lost on a large amount of money into hardware and software, while the people and the technology and education—technology leaders who are needed to lead schools into transforming teaching and



Where are the teachers when schoolchildren are eating their lunches on the gym floor?

learning—have not been considered in any way. Little wonder, then, that two decades after computers have entered classrooms, that the jury is still out.

Christine J. Stelling, Port Richmond, Del.

As I'm always learning new teaching methods, I copied "The ABCs of classroom fear" (Cover, Sept. 22). In spite of our issues, the fun of teaching, the humor of staff meetings, the real truth about principals and the creative genius of kids are the reasons I like to go to work every day. Teaching is a 24-hour job. I am always looking for that idea or insight or article that will spark and ignite you, does "learning power," and your wonderful article provided me with even more ideas.

Antel / Black/Thomas, Calgary

"The ABCs of classroom fear" reminded me of when I was in Grade 6, back in 1998. Our teacher, Mrs. Henry, taught us the names of the mountains in South America

by having us sing them. I was still using them today. Good teachers have been using all sorts of methods for many years.

Barbara Stewart, Kelowna, B.C.

Bottoms up

It's refreshing to see that people are beginning to appreciate beer for the truly wonderful drink that it is ("The new hip hops," *BusinessWeek*, Oct. 6). I started on Molson Extra not only buy it when the beer store is out of Sleeman Cream Ale—my new favorite but still beer. There are many great beers out there and it's about time beer drinkers expanded their horizons beyond the truly bland Blatz and Canadian and high, buds, of the world. I visited England for the first time in 1995 and since then have developed a passion for English and Irish ales and stout. During a Christmas cruise I discovered the joys of Mexican ales such as Sol, Dos Equis, and Corona. It is indeed true that beer lovers can be as passionate about their beer as wine drinkers can be about their wine. Great article!

Frank Clegg, Ontario



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THEMAIL

Lethal weapons

"More people were killed with knives than with guns last year" (Up Front, Canada, Oct. 15). What's next? A Canadian knife registry?

Gordon Barnett, Aurora, Ont.

Speaking of sex

Since when did the surprise of dating and sex become synonymous? Does increasing the randomness of one's partner mean sleeping in the lowest common denominator? Your cover ("Instant Sex," Oct. 6) was cheap, sleazy, misleading and extremely embarrassing to Mechant.

Sam Phillips/Delany Del.

I admire your courage in covering such a risqué topic in the new Cirque du Soleil show, Zanzuary, in Las Vegas ("Las Vegas, PQ," Special Report, Oct. 6). Cirque du Soleil dares go where it has never gone before, into the backstage traditions of European culture. It intertwines nudity, incestuous and incestuous relations, sadomasochism and even a startling depiction of rape, suffocation, pushing the boundaries of what people find acceptable in art to civilizers. And while it made through some controversial territory, Zanzuary is always performed with an awareness that sex is good. If Mechant were willing to explore artistic and cultural phenomena like this more often, I'd be willing to accept its outrageous on the street corner. Their nudity is a need for the next but also for colour, and Zanzuary definitely adds colour.

Adam Hamilton, Ottawa

Canada is still a class act, but usually when we're admired from privacy, love and/or marriage, it becomes just another commodity, whether dairy or dairy-free. M. Elizabeth Chapman, London, Ont.

Without progeny

Thomas Cahill's article "You're so mad wrong" (Over to You, Oct. 6) is a much-needed breath of fresh air. Of course parenthood should be a choice. Raising your child, no matter how much you love him or her, is a huge investment in time, money and energy. As parents of a second daughter,



Admiring the courage in reporting on such a risqué topic at the Cirque du Soleil show show

there were times when we really had our heads full, but we never regretted the choice and we never felt critical of friends who decided they wanted to look far from their responsibility, children's couples are probably doing this poor old overworked parent a favour. Although it seems to be politically incorrect to say so (at least, in some quarters), our biggest problem is overpopulation. People who have no children or so are the irresponsible ones, even in countries like Canada, where we have a big advantage in terms of natural resources. **Heidi Coleman, Mississauga**

Moons can truly know what it is to be a parent until she is one. My seasons for having children at 25 are not the same as the seasons that I am glad I have them now at 43. My children have taught me more about myself, living and love than I ever could have known. Thomas Cahill's every article of an Ancestral "Those grapes were probably too sour anyway" **Wanda Harris, Courtney BC**

"My reasons for having children at 25 are not the same as the reasons that I am glad I have them now at 43"

In one paragraph Thomas Cahill describes the experiences and freedoms that come with being children and makes me think, "Yes, exactly, and I can't do all that." So give me my maternity leave because I need to keep my energy and strength. It's not be-

cause those of us with children are more important, but if the workplace can accommodate parents and have successful, productive employees whose lives will produce the same success in their children, that to me is what every parent has a right to expect. I believe each choice is a right choice when a person is happy, contributing member of society. **Yvonne Heston, Vancouver BC**

Shades of reform

Irish Aid's focus is on encouraging Muslims to think more critically, but the criticism is assuming that this represents a relevant approach to Islam ("I'm asking for heaven's sake," Q&A, Sept. 29). The Islamic faith promotes and demands critical thinking from all of its members, and can blind adherents to it. If Muslims today aren't doing that, it is their situation that needs change, not the faith. **Maria Moosman, Toronto Ont**

Amazingly, none of the letters written in response to Irish Aid's plea for a re-examination of Islamic values addressed the issue of Muslim suicide bombers who are actually full and rational adults who negotiate with reality ("Islam today," The Mail, Oct. 15). Instead, the "debate" belied the issue by engaging in a debate, completely departing with historical facts as base. And for Islam but tadder for the Jews. **David White, Montreal**



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UPFRONT



Religion | A papal wave

Even for the Roman Catholic Church, when spectacle can be an everyday event, the 25th anniversary of John Paul II's election to the papacy was something to behold. St. Peter's Square, with its massive basilica as a backdrop, fairly twinkled in the soft twilight as rows of cardinals in their red caps and yellow robes and tens of thousands of votive candles lit the mass and danced in the air to a mass who thrust his church like a dagger into the heart of Communism and Third World inequities.

On the stage itself, an universally frail Pope—he's 83 and nearly smothered by Parkinson's and perhaps cancer—held together the power of the golden tablets with his golden robes and sparkling jeweled stole. A both humble and proud man, self-struggling to speak, he seemed to know his place in history was secure, the anniversary but a stopping score on the road to immortality.



John Paul at his anniversary, timed to coincide with moment on Oct. 16, 1978, when he made his first public appearance as Pope

Quote of the week | "As Lloyd Bridges said, 'I think I picked the wrong week to give up sniffing glue.'"¹⁰ Bad-boy Australian author Peter Finch, a reformed cocaine addict who writes under the name DEB Perte, on winning the prestigious Booker Prize

ScoreCard

A The Right: Gated or not, maybe quiet for electoral success will depend on choice of host: someone comfortable with right-wing ideology, hungry for power, and eager to bury the Clinton legacy. And McCain, come on down!

F Games Theater: Shows not overnight work on America's defense. Exaggerated by blasting residents with recorded sounds of crashing surf. Better than using Ennio's greatest hits, but not nearly as good as limiting the jolt to music to daylight hours.

F Steve Bartman: Chicago Cubs fan will forever be known as guy who chased home run to win the tie but that home, strike, night and first shot at World Series in 50 years. Would be added to Hall of Fame as the nation's protection program.

F Guide of Victoria: Bookings 111, planned so far on use of naps during sex, mass releases on canvas, at the very least. Good news, speakers at year-end night say they're not tied up to please him. They may be telling the truth.



A Behind the Scenes: Many acts parts boss a Secretary's force is unfilled right. Under the hood, Attorney General's creditable statement to play Paul in the 1980s. If it's not correct with new party's direction, expect her to call him on spot behind the wheel.

WORLD

INQ In a round of face-saving diplomacy, UN Security Council members Russia, France and Germany held their annual and badly Washington's plan for the slow transfer of Iraq to domestic rule. They refused, however, to provide additional monetary military personnel to help with the effort, though Japan offered \$1 billion to assist reconstruction and Canada an additional \$200 million.

In Baghdad itself, it was week of continued violence as car bombs exploded outside the Turkish embassy and a Baghdad hotel being used by westerners, killing 39. U.S. troops, meanwhile, were involved in a deadly fire-fight outside the office of a U.S. cleric.

AL-QAIDA Osama bin Laden's terrorist network is active in 60 countries and has an estimated 18,000 potential recruits or, at large, an influential London-based think-tank said. The Washington Post reported that a son of bin Laden, Said, is running the network from somewhere in Iran.

BOLIVIA South America's poorest country scented on the brink of anarchy, perhaps revolution, after months long strike by miners, coca growers and farmers paralyzed the capital, La Paz, and threatened the rule of President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada.

INDIA Police swooped down on a radical Hindu leader and arrested more than 17,000



A FAN'S GAME

A 26-year-old fan of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team was arrested after he was caught on the ice and put upon the ice was back. The 26-year-old was hauled from the rink and issued an arrest warrant for the next day, but the hard-hat Chicago Cubs, who haven't been to the World Series since a disastrous 1905 season, had to come on them in 1914 for not allowing to get back into the game, but to the Florida Marlins who went on to meet the New York Yankees in the full choice.

activists as they marched on the northern town of Ayodhya, home to a disputed Hindu shrine that has been a decade-long target for Muslim-Hindu unrest. As many as 100,000 Hindu pilgrims may descend on

Ayodhya in an attempt to build a temple where there is now a mosque.

CHILD LABOUR Seventy-four child workers, some as young as four, were rescued from a granite quarry in Nigeria where many had worked in slave-like conditions for over a year. Nigerian police were rescuing the children to neighbouring Benin from where as many as 6,000 child workers are said to have come.

AFGHANISTAN Canada is airlifting 16 new armoured vehicles, designed to provide greater protection against land mines, to Afghanistan as the UN security force, with its large Canadian contingent, gets set to expand its role outside the capital, Kabul. Two Canadians, Ahmed Said Khadr and his son Kanan, both said to be al-Qaeda supporters, were reportedly involved in a shootout with Pakistani forces at a suspected terrorist camp near the Afghan border.

SOUTH KOREA Embattled populist President Roh Moo-hyun wants to put his job on the line in a December referendum. His party, which wants him ousted for his handling of the economy, is refusing to go along.

ANGUILLANS The issue of homosexuality caused to bustle the 77-million-member Anglican Church as 37 priests and 541 deacons for a same-sex wedding in London. Although the church was widely expected to resist the church, conservative leaders, mostly from Africa, didn't have enough votes to reject American Episcopalians for selecting an openly gay bishop. The Nigerian church, though, has severed ties with the Vancouver archdiocese over indications to bless same-sex marriages.

FERRY DISASTER A Staten Island ferry slammed into a New York pier, killing at least 10 and injuring 67, leaving some with severed limbs. Investigators said the pilot appeared to have fallen asleep over the wheel, possibly because of a mix-up with blood pressure medication. The 55-year-old man immediately fled the scene and attempted suicide in his home by slashing his wrists and shooting himself with a pellet gun.

FRENCH Thanks to an influx of Haitians and the small number of Quebec seaweeds,

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there are now **new** French-speaking residents of Florida, 337,665, then Christians, a recent census reported

HEALTH | SCIENCE

SLIMING IMPLANTS They have been banned for 11 years in Canada and the U.S. and are the subject of billions of dollars in lawsuits for disfiguring injuries and deaths. But regulatory officials in Washington say that the latest generation of silicone breast implants are safe enough to go back on the market.

SEPARATED Two-year-old Egyptian twins, Mohamed and Ahmed Ibrahim, joined at the top of their skulls, were separated in a nine-month, 34-hour operation in Dallas. Both were reported as critical but stable condition after long drug-induced comas. A similar set of 18-month-old conjoined twins from the Philippines are to be operated on in New York. Surgeons there want to pace a series of operations over several months.

FINCHES Heavy myxoma snailers have extirpated species that peak too soon before their destination, U.S. researchers found.

People whose bodies make large clumps of cholesterol rather than small ones may live longer, U.S. researchers said, pointing that

HEART ATTACK HAVENS

A massive study of deaths from heart disease shows significant regional and gender differences, based, the authors say, on a variety of factors including diet, smoking and unemployment.

Cardiovascular deaths per 100,000 population

	Men	Women	Overall
Alb.	400	252	321
Man.	360	291	289
P.E.I.	357	158	267
Man.	312	281	296
N.S.	246	168	206
N.B.	334	199	254
Alta.	311	199	249
Que.	326	183	249
Canada	317	191	244
Ont.	314	176	244
Sask.	368	196	238
B.C.	286	174	233
Nunavut	242	190	216
N.W.T.	241	147	197

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

the large global trend not to boost in the wake of an artery and crumb buns.

Microsowing new vegetables like broccoli almost totally eliminates their health-promoting nutrients, a surprised group of Spanish scientists reported.

CANADA

APOLOGY In what was not a good start to an election campaign, NDP Premier Lorne Calvert was forced to apologize to Socialist Party opponent Edwin Hammanson for a cartoon depicting Hammanson as a concentration camp commander. The small party resigned. Another NDP side quit in the summer after he wrote a memo referring to U.S. President George W. Bush as President Shrub.

HUMAN A government-funded research team is asking residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to approve a high security clinic in their neighborhood that would hand out free heroin to an estimated 88 addicts, part of a study to see how they can most easily lack the habit. As the clinic the five houses and crack cocaine users opened last month, about seven blocks away.

AN CANADA In what may be an elaborate bluff, Air Canada is reportedly threatening to buy 40 new regional jets from Bombardier's aircraft division of Bombardier. The potential sale is upset with Ottawa's subsidies for Bombardier when it sold aircraft abroad but not on the home market. A defense subsidy would mean lower prices.



OUTTAGE

Over 100 million and counting photos of people taken over 100 years ago are in a project, but Canada's not left behind. A national study of a growing Queen's University in Kingston is now asking for a new stamp made in a new way.

AIR-INDIA

After a lengthy delay, the Air India trial resumed with a key prosecution witness testifying in Punjab that accused bomber Rajinder Singh Malik, a wealthy Vancouver businessman, unsuccessfully tried to bribe him to a surprise release on a flight to India just weeks before the 1985 attack. The witness, who cannot be named, also acknowledged he was using Malik over a dispute involving hundreds of thousands of dollars.

HUMANITARIAN

A Syrian-born refugee, in a Toronto-detention centre for two years, was on a hunger strike to protest against the cold in his concrete cell. Hassan Alarabi was arrested during the past few days. He was released because police believe he is involved in a forged ring connected to al-Qaeda.

POLITICS

Paul Martin not only out-pollied challenger Stéphane Goggin 10 to one for candidates in the New 100 Liberal convention, he out-thundered her on that scale as well. New 100 record Martin received 111,000 votes, compared to less than 10 million for Goggin. Canadian voters hired a law firm to help them get more time on CPAC, the parliamentary TV channel. As it now stands, only five hours of Senate proceedings are broadcast during prime time, on Sunday nights.

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WHERE GOLF BEGAN

Even in Scotland, memories of home are often close at hand: "Canadian, eh?"

IT WAS A very quick flash of red, but it looked familiar. Strange, because you rarely even notice when you're at home, but somehow it seems unmistakably evident when you're abroad. My hand turned quickly to confirm my suspicions. Sure enough, there it was: a small Canadian flag embroidered on the side of a cup, sitting atop a dish of a passing golfer. I was playing Kingsbarns, one of Scotland's best courses, and this happened when another group passed by on an adjoining hole. Perhaps among my attention he suddenly turned around as well. We passed, laughed, and said, "yes or no" at the same time: "Canadian, eh?"

I'd been in the United Kingdom for a week of work, and then engaged in a round-trip for a few days now to meet up with some buddies who were doing the male thing—bunking in the bunkhouses of golf. It felt not, as my travels often do, filling my notebook with little moments.

The overnight man from London to Edinburgh was an experience that reminded me how exciting that mode of travel can be, but how our fast-paced lives rarely afford the luxury of time to enjoy it. A few weeks ago, I flew from Toronto to Vancouver to give a speech: the entire trip took less than 20 hours, and because of that, I had no sense of distance traveled or what I'd passed along the way. The train, the enduring characters we meet, and what I saw of the countryside, had me promising myself I'd do this at home. I'll have to wait at that: it's 20 years since I spent that much time on a train, and then it was riding the rails into Churchill, Manitoba's fairly who you

“

We had out onto the 18th fairway and took pictures of ourselves standing on the stone bridge that crosses the Swissian Burn.

suddenly find yourself staring at on trips like this: there is the clubhouse bar, on Scotland's west coast in Turriff, on Hill of Farnie baseball catcher Johnny Bench. He looked embarrassed. Bench was involved in some kind of travelling celebrity event and his host was one of those lead Americans whom many Europeans find so annoying. Believing from the other end of the room, the guy seemed to want everyone to know this: he'd like his drink "Americanized, you know, with ice."

We played a round at the Prestwick Golf Club, back in 1891, and the venue for the first British Open in 1890. It probably hasn't changed much since. It remains a true and difficult test of the game, with dry hand-painted red and white signs giving hints at each hole on how to plan strategy. In the early days, when the sport was just starting to gain some notice, the Open was completed in one day—14 holes, and the winner's prize was an ornate red leather belt with a silver buckle. How would Tiger like that?

In London, on the east coast, is the home of golf. Players from around the world make pilgrimages, spending half-days buying my memorabilia that has the same stamped on. The Old Course makes you catch your breath. Some of the game's great moments happened there: death of misers of Hogart, Swaid, Palmer and Nicklaus and one of the first changes, Old Tom Morris, who lived a few stones away. To play around, you need to reserve months in advance—something we hadn't done.

But there was no keeping us off the laid-out turf. We ran out onto the 18th fairway and took pictures of ourselves standing on the stone bridge that crosses the Swissian Burn as the final walk home. We passed, laughed and captured a moment some of us wanted to end: Canadian, eh?

John Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television news and anchor of The National. To comment: jtmans@cbc.ca

Passages

HONOURED Retired justice Kertha Wilson, 86, the first woman appointed to Canada's Supreme Court, and Judge Roselle Abella, 57, of the Ontario Court of Appeal, were co-winners of the Peter Gruber Foundation justice prize, a \$260,000 international award for judges who have made a mark in their field.

DIED Brenson Brockhouse, Canada's only fully homegrown and educated Nobel laureate, shared the 1994 prize for physics for helping explain the structure and movement of atoms. Born in Ladysmith, Alta., Brockhouse spent most of his career at McMaster University in Hamilton. He died at home at age 85 after years of declining health.

WON Brenson's top literary award, the Booklist Prize, went to hard-living Australian author Peter Finkel, who writes under the name DBC Pierre. A confirmed drug addict who once checked a friend out of his home



and squandered much of a healthy fortune, Finkel, 42, has lived a life almost as dark and convoluted as that of the main character in his debut novel *Venom*. Gary Little, a book manager who's frequently changed with a high-school romance

SENTENCED Betty Krawczyk, a 79-year-old sex-logging activist, was given an additional six months in jail for refusing to accept probation conditions that would limit her ability to protest. The Clayco Sound great-grandmother had already spent 133 days in jail for part in a Vancouver Island protest last summer.

DIED Alberta country singer and producer Gary Buck, a co-founder of the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame, succumbed to cancer at 63.

Greenpeace co-founder Eric MacCallie, a former British foreign service officer, suffered a heart attack at 63 at his home near Victoria.

Record-breaking jockey Willie Shoemaker, 73, rode four Kentucky Derby winners—the last when he was 54. He died in his sleep at his suburban Los Angeles home.



WHOEVER THOUGHT THE PGA RECORD BOOK WOULD BE REWRITTEN LEFT-HANDED?

When he captured the NCAA crown as a sophomore freshman, the world knew a special golfer was growing up in Iowa. What it did not know was how possible he would be. After winning the U.S. Amateur title, he entered the PGA Tour with a tour de force of skill and grace. In 11 years, he's achieved 23 tour victories and more first-time finishes than most golfers earn in a lifetime. One man personally governs the respect of the Tour and the hearts of the fans, his name is Phil Mickelson.



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UPFRONT



Cities | How to deal with the homeless?

The tents outside Science World, one of Vancouver's most popular tourist destinations, may be just an eyesore to many tourists, but to others they're a chilling warning sign of the future. Barely four months after this picturesque city won the right to host the 2010 Winter Olympics, a ballooning homeless population is threatening to overwhelm the streets—and with it, Vancouver's reputation as a city that can handle its own problems. City officials say the number of homeless people has doubled in the past year—from 750 to 1,500. Experts blame the rising cost of housing, a shortage of facilities for mental patients, B.C.'s tougher welfare requirements—designed to get even more stringent in the spring—and crack and crystal meth users for the increase.

But whatever the cause, the squatters pose a real quandary for Mayor Larry Campbell, a reformer who opened North America's first supervised drug injection site last month. For a big city mayor, Campbell has been unusually sympathetic to the plight of the homeless. He says that those who are unemployable or mentally ill should be helped out and not kicked out of the site. And that



Mayor Campbell, a reformer, seems at Vancouver's fast-growing tent city, in the shadow of one of B.C.'s premiere tourist attractions.

has proved him against Premier Gordon Campbell, himself a former Vancouver mayor, who says that other provincial cities don't have the same problem because they enforce their bylaws.

It may be the last thing a still-recovering Vancouver needs right now—a test of will between the two Campbells over the city's down and out. But while other municipalities have dealt with their homeless in a tough-love way—think Toronto, which routed its tent-city dwellers a year ago after postponed efforts to find affordable housing, or Sydney, Australia, which forced its homeless into temporary shelters in the run-up to the 2000 Summer Olympics—most of those solutions have been short-lived. Vancouver's business community is facing up a flux about philanthropists, and residents are complicating of mismanaged garbage bins, discarded needles and a healthier rodent population. Perhaps that's part of Mayor Campbell's strategy to keep the pressure on the province for more permanent, creative solutions. Or maybe he's just waiting for the summer rains, which began last week, to wash the problems away.

STEPHAN LEECH

OnSpec

Money talks

If temp workers Stephen Hunter and Peter MacKenzie hadn't scored to manage, a group of Ontario teachers, for both the 1990s and the 2000s, were ready to go to the two teachers with an ultimatum: do the deal or lose your corporate money dry up. They just what they wanted. Now, of course, they have to raise millions for both a high-profile teaching union as well as a provincial election in the spring.

By the polls

In the Ontario election, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff is leading the Liberal Party. He's already following common polls. But the Ontario premier-to-be may be the first to actually have a publisher to be his chief of staff. Don Gop, a former strategist from the Liberal polling firm Pollara who was



Facilities

The *Star* and *Mail* published its own glossy university rankings. Welcome to the post, says, but beware those comprehensive Internet surveys of student opinion, ranking universities with the best post-grad life. Forthcoming research for medicine and Waterloo might be the best post-grad life. Forthcoming research for medicine and Waterloo might be the best post-grad life. Forthcoming research for medicine and Waterloo might be the best post-grad life.



TWO TO TANGO

In the Alliance and Tory dance, somebody had to lead, notes JOHN GEDDES

THERE'S A CERTAIN fascination in the numbers of deal making. No secret had the big fact of a pact: outside the night business, firms find the obsession with every little detail that went into it took hold. And close attention to what transpired between Stephen Harper and Peter MacKay also being some themselves to the tale. Like the way MacKay, the Tory leader, hobbled into the final last-night talks on Oct. 19 on crutches, having wrenched his knee in a rugby game, his painfully wearying all by the time he signed on the dotted line. Or how Harper was fol-

lowed by a journalist from the airport after he landed in Ottawa for that final scene at a secret downtown office location, shuffling the reporter's car only by having his own driver take a detour onto Parliament Hill, where security delayed his pursuit long enough to let the Alliance leader speed away.

But take a step back from last minute minutiae and the longer game that led to the breakthrough comes into focus. One an-

MacKay got what the Conservatives wanted while Harper emerged a player

available conclusion—though Tories dispute it—is that Harper drove the process. It may take two to tango, but somebody has to lead. Harper signalled he was willing to take risks to make it happen in his very first speech in the House after becoming Canadian Alliance leader last year, when he surprised just about everybody by using the occasion to lay out a plan on Brian Mulroney. Why risk annoying Alliance members, especially old Republicans, who devoutly despise free living ideas of the Progressive Conservative party-they call? Because there was

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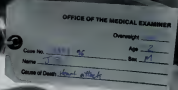
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re better way to reach out to Richard Toner who are just as devoted to that mission now for him. "Finally," Harper told Mulcahey at the time, "I'm making a political point."

Point taken. Harper's overtures to the Toner Mulcahey wing paid off. The former prime minister's hand wiggled in shaping the demand for a right-of-center reconciliation. Not only did Mulcahey encourage both Harper and Mackay, his desire for a deal won a go-on-board message to nation-wide school boards. Mulcahey's former top aide, now lieutenant, Don Mazankowski, even agreed to serve as one of Mackay's emissaries at negotiations that began in late August. And while those talks were up there, leaving both Harper and Mackay to hammer out a deal between, a new Mazankowski who really got things rolling by proposing a full merger, rather than something more tentative. "I didn't think it would go that far this fast," Mackay admitted at the news conference announcing the deal.

They fundraisers—again, many still closely linked to Mulcahey—were also urging Mackay on. Directors of the PC Canada Fund endorsed the merger concept early this month, according to senior Tory sources. A top party executive, Richard Stoughton, privately acted as a facilitator. Indeed, prominent donors pulled the two parties' fundraisers and donors closer to the table dropped in. "All these and they fundraisers were at the point of getting together and going to battle of the leaders and saying, 'We're not going to meet any more money for either of you if you don't do this deal,'" said Bob Dechen, a Toronto lawyer and Alliance fundraiser. "Luckily, we don't have to do that now."

Peace gripped the fundraising wings when the on again, off again merger talks looked close to being pulled off for good. They were facing the desperate prospect of trying to scrounge enough cash while heading, and updating fundraising venues, into a likely spring election against the Paul Martin-led Liberals. Harper was rapidly desperate for cash—his Mackay appeared second-fiddle. Harper was forced to fly to Toronto on Oct. 8 to verbally show down the Tory leader as a meeting party were near the city. They were for a couple of hours. Two days later, they spoke again by telephone—his prospects weakened. The reinvigorated block, however, he asked the new party's leader. "It was at that point that Harper said, 'Look, why don't we take the



Harper and Toner could be among the rivals for the new party's top job

Thing together, weekend off? Meet with our families, and just get away from that and do a little soul searching." And one of Mackay's aides. A week later—but Harper also promptly leaked a memo to the media outlining what he called Mackay's "lack of any spirit of compromise."

Many pundits anticipated that leak as a death knell for the merger bid. Instead, the weekend of retrospection did the trick. But exactly how? Mackay reportedly came under renewed pressure from Tory hardliners, at the time, Albert's Ralph Klein and, just that day, Mulcahey. Asked if those conversations took place, a Mackay spokesman would only observe that his boss shares Mulcahey's penchant for rarely contentious phone calls, with a wide range of political opponents. The tale instead, though, that Mackay's position moved by conservative and friends, including rugby buddies, back home in New Glasgow, N.S., who urged him to exit a

deal. Whatever voters got through to him, he decided to go forth. After the long wait and, he accepted Harper's offer to give every riding equal delegate weight to a convention next March 19-21 to select a new leader—basically what the Tories wanted all along.

Having agreed to form a new Conservative Party of Canada, Mackay now has to campaign hard to get two-thirds of the old party members to ratify the deal by the planned Dec. 12 deadline. Harper should have a much easier time securing the necessary bare majority support of Alliance members.

If Mackay gets credit for taking a step of faith, Harper struggles with his choice more seriously. He solidified up key Tories, drove the negotiations, and was morally tough. While his reputation as a right wing thinker was established years ago, many doubted his political savvy. Now, he looks like a player, not just a policy wonk. But can Harper begin to lead the new party? He sees the job—a good bet—he'll gladly be up against name-brand rivals. Mackay, for one. Mike Harris, the former Ontario premier, for another. New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord, running several chances thought to be mulling over his choice. It could be a formidable field. But after so many pundits got it so wrong, including Harper's earlier drive down, he'll never let be induced now to wince off the leadership log to quickly. He's shown a knack for seeing past domestic details to the wider field of play.

FUNDRAISERS

were at the point of saying they wouldn't raise any more money if the deal wasn't done

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Politics

HOW THE WEST MIGHT BE WON

Paul Martin is sensitive to Western Canada's concerns. Will that be enough?

In the last federal election, the Liberals took 14 seats in the four western provinces. That's not a lot in a region with 45 ridings, but it's arguably an improvement over the single-digit results the party has posted in other elections over the years. In fact, for most of the Liberals' last run was out of the Ontario-Manitoba border in 43 ridings—and that was back in 1990. But Paul Martin has vowed that westerners will have a seat at the table when he is prime minister, and even before taking office is reaching out to the region in a way few Liberal leaders have before. Calgary-based Chief Brian Bergman and Ottawa-based Chief John Gidley examine Martin's efforts to woo the West.

BERGMAN

For years—hey, decades—western Canadians took comfort in the common knowledge that no one in Ottawa gave a damn about them. It was a common-sensical byproduct of the fact that the west's one federal value to politicians from this coast was while travelling through the B.C. Interior. Or by Brian Mulroney's decision to award a lucrative federal contract to a Montreal aerospace firm rather than more deserving one in Winnipeg—let alone the almost single-handedly sponsored Premier Manning's Reform party. Or John Chisholm's determination to not even set foot in Liberal-pledge Calgary during the last federal election.

Ah, those were the days



With Premier Gordon Campbell and a local resident during a visit to fire-ravaged B.C.

But now, what shining star is this we see from the east? Paul Martin says he will judge the success of his regime by its ability to answer, if not entirely shy, western demands. What's more, Martin insiders say the big guy really is serious. So after years—hey, decades—of passing over the Ottawa River to ponder what exactly Quebecers want, the

feds may soon be doing an Einstein-style head spin to contemplate what, in, those other folks are going on about. For westerners like me, it's a refreshing, if somewhat unnerving, change. After all, what if they really listen to us?

Dave Isaacson, Calgary's popular first-term mayor, knows a thing or two about what a hard sell Liberals can be in this part of the country 80 years ago, Reconstruction era, and in today's, a federal Liberal candidate. "People have felt the values of an entire region are ignored," says the mayor. "Western Canada doesn't feel democracy is real." His solution? A vigorously reformed and elected Senate.

The sound you hear is a collective groan from east of Toronto. Surely, not that old cheatin' spirit? Sorry, afraid so. Piling done by the Canada War Foundation, the region's foremost political and social affairs think tank, shows 84 per cent of westerners want an elected Senate

in which each province has the same number of seats, a move aimed at providing an effective counterbalance to the representation by population House of Commons. Support is firm in all 48 provinces, and across age groups and genders. "With these kinds of numbers," says Canada West president Roger Osborne, "it's pretty much like asking, 'Do you believe in Christmas?'" In the east of the country, polls show people evenly split on the Senate's fate, with half

ALAN COOPER/CPA

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wanting to abolish it and the other half to reform it.

A recent *Canada West* report co-authored by Gibbins came up with 10 ways Ottawa (and Martin) could ease regional tensions. Among them: give provinces direct input into international trade agreements that affect them, and make sure that western Canadians are better represented in the public service. And for the Senate, the report proposed only constitutional changes, such as having the joint ministerial council committees headquartered by the provincial and territorial governments.

Canada West took a lot of heat from the region's pundits for not pushing enough for a so-called Triple E Senate. But that's a script for failure, says Gibbins, because Quebec and Ontario will balk. His hope is that western provinces would elect their senators and thereby put pressure on others to do the same—such as happened with the U.S. Senate a century ago. Heing said that, Gibbins stresses that significant movement on Senate reform is essential if Martin hopes to win over the West. "It's a litmus test," he says.

Gibbins thinks other aspects of Martin's agenda, such as tighter jury discipline and greater revenue sharing for municipalities, could have broad appeal in the region. So are we headed for a new era of national harmony? And, if westerners are left with nothing to complain about, are we in danger of losing our identity? "That's not a frivolous question," says Gibbins. "The one thing that keeps us together is distrust for Ottawa. So staying that way and it's quite possible the West would no longer need a federalist, this political controversy." The skeptical westerner in me says not to worry: it will never cease to stir.

GEDDES

Paul Martin grew up in Ontario. He made his fortune as a businessman in Quebec. But his most powerful political opponents, David Field, and donor allies from Clinton's cabinet, Anne McLellan and Ralph Goodale, are all from the West. After winning the delegates he needed to see up the Liberal leadership a few weeks ago, Martin headed straight to B.C., where he showed proper political concern over the discontent expressed by voters there. It's all more than a coincidence. Martin wants desperately to break the long drought of Liberal political



Martin has surrounded himself with advisers who lean westward

fortunes west of the Macdonald border.

The preoccupation is not a new one for the man whose prime ministerial dream goes back who knows how far. One of Martin's earliest forays into top-level political activity—before he won a well-known quantity in Ontario and lost—showed his frustration with Liberal uncertainty in the western point of view. Back in 1996, after three energy minister Marc Lalonde announced the National Energy Program, the party's unity report with the West quickly began to sink to an all-time low. Doug Richardson, now a Saskatoon lawyer, was then a rising Liberal activist and would go on to be an aide to Lalonde. He remembers how Martin, then a Montreal businessman and opposed to the NDP, took the initiative in setting up a series of private meetings between Lalonde and business leaders, including westerners, who were agitated by the direction Prime Trudeau's

government was taking.

Richardson says Martin's sympathy for the energy producers was not his pre-occupation made less together than—and still do today. It was the same centre-right mindset that John Turner, who as an MP represented a Vancouver riding, tried to exploit in the federal 1988 election when he succeeded Trudeau. But Richardson says even Turner, whom he served as chief of staff, didn't share the knock that making westerners believe in him that Martin demonstrated. "I don't think we've ever had a Liberal leader who understood the West the way Paul Martin does, including Mr. Turner," he says.

Field, who is in his second term and is widely acknowledged as Martin's top organizer, is so powerful that any suggestion of western issues being sidelined while he's at the helm is viewed as absurd. Add to that Martin's close ties to Alberta's McLellan, the health minister, and Saskatchewan's Goodale, the public works minister, and the Prairie perspective is amply represented. Some Martin insiders view Clinton as having filled the region. They were fact, out, for instance, when Clinton joked during the 2000 election, "I like to do politics with people from the East, Jay Clark and Stedman Dry are from Alberta. They are a different type."

Martin must now prove he is different from past Liberal leaders. His reputation as a difficult employer, one causing that conservative help a lot. But how deep do these attitudes run? "Clinton and Alberta introduced the board as a condition," Canadian 100 founder and senior researcher David Perry observes. "Martin was drawn rather reluctantly into it." It's overexposure to note that Martin endorses demands of both Field, "West" Liberalism and his party's progressive side. If Martin as prime minister decides to restore the former set of priorities—the ones inherited from his last father, a founder of universal social programs—right-wing westerners might re-evaluate him.

And then there's Kyoto. Martin says he's for Canada's meeting its greenhouse gas reduction commitments—but not in a way that would "disadvantage certain provinces or regions." A policy for cutting fossil fuel burning that managed to be seen as just barely in Alberta would be quite a feat. But then, nobody said being a Liberal prime minister and being popular was going to be easy.

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PAUL, DO THIS FIRST, PLEASE

Business says Martin's first priority is fixing the U.S. relationship

HE PROBABLY DOESN'T take over until early next year—but the Public Policy Forum has already decided to “ask” for the Paul Martin. The Ottawa-based think tank had firm rules when it asked 75 senior executives across the country to mail over their priorities for the new PM: list *not* five, *no one* could argue about his or her self-assessed schemes, each had to consider the national interest. The resulting report, which will be released this week, does not mince words: the No. 1 priority is “the relationship deficit” with the United States. The executives did not advocate that Canada join the U.S. in its various Iraq

adventure. “They believe we can mend fences with our values and differences of opinion,” says consultant Jack Whelan, who produced the study. But that the U.S. is still our best friend and should be treated that way? Martin told the printers, the ads should swing through Washington as soon as possible as a gesture of goodwill.

It is the season of love—for a prime minister in writing who cannot possibly fulfill every demand. But there are clearly three overwhelming challenges, including the former's first priority, that Martin will face from when he takes office. And there are no easy solutions:

■ For starters, I have found it difficult to watch Prime Minister Jean Chrétien gradually poison our relationship with the U.S.

It does require more civility—and an increased emphasis within a cabinet on Canada-U.S. issues. Easy today. But it is no easy to say “No” to the administration. And it is no easy to maintain cordiality in troubled times while avoiding the expression of pandering.

■ Martin has an ambitious agenda: tax cuts, debt reduction and spending programs in dealing more funds for cities. Those plans are always difficult to juggle. But Ottawa has also promised to give \$3 billion to the provinces for health care—if the federal surplus exceeds \$3 billion. Economists now say, however, that Ottawa will not have the surplus in 2005-2006 surplus until next fall, partly because it has recently introduced a new, much-criticized bookkeeping system.

U.S. SALES account for almost 40 per cent of Canada's GDP; the country's economic health depends on the maintenance of a hassle-free border

■ While, given an elected cabinet with a 50-50 split, that surplus is likely to be relatively small. (Finance Minister John Manley will offer a first glimpse at how small on Nov. 5.)

Two weeks ago, Manley added that he might dip into his \$3 billion contingency fund—because the provinces are coming on this money. Get me. “Everywhere I go across the country, I meet people who think their cause is going to be Martin's top priority,” says Toronto Dominion Bank chief economist Don Drummond. “His Minister probably does not have a leg to stand on when it comes to contingency reserves, so he is going to have

to work within the existing spending envelope to the largest degree.” In other words, folks are bound to be disappointed—and agitated.

■ After a spate of headline-grabbing federal scandals, voters have reason to suspect that Ottawa is careless with their tax dollars. That impression is going to get worse next month. A senior General Sheila Fraser is out her long-awaited report on federal sponsorships and contracts. To appease public concern, Parliament is now considering an ambitious bill that creates new ethics officers for the House of Commons and for the Senate. A sensible and long overdue move.

But Ottawa has not gone far enough. As it stands, the prime minister will appoint the ethics officers—after consultation with the Opposition, although he does not have to consult approval. And the legislation does not address the fact that the government's watchdogs, from the auditor general to the other various commissions, do not have the power to force access and impose penalties. They can only recommend. “You are dealing with

people who are used to rubber-stamping whatever they do as official,” says Jeff Conacher, co-director of Ottawa-based Democracy Watch. “In order to clean up a system, you need a system with no holes in it at all. Otherwise, any loophole will be exploited. And there are loopholes!”

Those three issues concern tough, uncontested problems. How do you re-negotiate relations with the U.S. and you get more money into defense and security? How do you convince anyone of your sincerity if money is being spent? Also, there is no quick fix. And that alone spells tough times ahead for the new PM and his cabinet team.

Mary Jarlsan's column appears every other week. mj@postmedia.ca



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In Memoriam | BY JAKE MACDONALD

DEATH OF A SHANGRI-LA

An Ontario resort goes up in flames, and a source of youthful nostalgia is lost

WHEN I WAS young and green as grass, I worked as a fishing guide at a palace and almost fairy-tale-like resort called Minilo Lodge. Like most of the staff, I was certain there was no better place in the country to work than "The Lodge." Its great library, wellstocked bar, high-ceilinged glass windows that seemed gold and crimson in the setting sun, and a grand rotunda that soared up and up into an apex of iron chandeliers, massive chairs and marvelously morticed wooden Countess articles and brochures tried to stimulate the spirit of the place, but you had to see it. Walking into the lodge for the first time, guests would always stop in the foyer, where eyes to the high ceiling, and to our grasp. How could any advertising brochure capture that sound?

Minilo Lodge, near the Manitoba border across the Keweenaw Peninsula, was surrounded by hundreds of miles of lake water. My job was to take people out "fishing," a sport which means mostly not, but rather, a hunt, a chase and waiting up the beauty of nature. On the big, 25-minute boat ride up to Big Sand Lake, I would pass the time playing an tape recording in my hand. All my fishing guide friends did the same thing. As soon as the boat was speeding away from the lodge, we'd quickly rip into those first slow, bumping chords of "Sonder on the Water," that story of a grand Manitowishneto that burns to the waterline. We loved the song because we loved the lodge. And in the same way that children read story books, we were fascinated and terrified by the idea that one day the same thing might happen to us.

But The Queen of the North (myself) to survive, about under the ownership of ailing lot of wide-eyed tourists, many of them from



Before it was destroyed, the Minilo Lodge sweet guests with its scenery and decor.

naturally raised by their ardor. Over the generations of Ontario toward the lodge during the 1970s, and ended up \$90 million lights by the time Four Seasons Hotel Inc. took over. No one could resist paying attention, though—and then, in 2002, an Alberta winter brought the lodge, where it would never close again, and about the burning of the its former glory.

This past summer, it was a great pleasure to meet housing around the corner at night and see the lodge glowing like a big, fiery lamp above the river. But at 3:35 on Thursday

giving morning, most everyone in Minilo, not included, was raised by the end of storm. Above Minilo Lodge the sky was lit up by the bright glow of fire. The Queen of the North was burning, and then, there was smoke on the water. The town's volunteer fire department, already caught in flames, but by daybreak the 87-year-old lodge was gone.

The authorities promptly launched an arson investigation, and there was much speculation about whether someone would try to rebuild it. I'd build it. On living time Minilo outrage, my friend Neil Gorman, just as perspective. "They can't ever replace it," he said. "That lodge used to be part of my family, and now it's part of history."

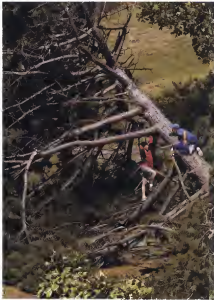
DISASTER ZONE

After Hurricane Juan, Halifax is left to cope without many of its beloved trees

JOHN SIMMONS swings over the trunk of a splintered pine, lets out a weary sigh and points off to the left, over the twisted, mangled corpses of pines and birches lying Salem Memorial Way in Halifax's Point Pleasant Park. "There's more on over," says Halifax's urban forest supervisor. "There's two, there's three. That's about it." Depressingly few, considering that the same vista used to be crowded with 500 or so healthy trees. But that was before Hurricane Juan howled in off the Atlantic early on Sept. 28. A few hours later, Point Pleasant had lost 75 per cent of its 80,000 trees. They were the work of a lifetime for Art Simpson, supervisor of municipal for the city, who has spent almost 30 years working in Point Pleasant. Surveying the damage from a fireboat away, he says, hardly audible, "It's hard to see. Yes it is, they used to call Point Pleasant Halifax's jewel. Now it looks like a giant has used it as a bowling alley."

Outside the park, in the downtown and residential neighbourhoods where the power is back on and the fallen trees removed, Halifax seems back to normal. But go down Benney Street, which has lost a dozen trees as its two blocks. Or drive along Jubilee Road past the houses now ruins of the big elm and maples that have stood on front lawns since the turn of the last century. So far, it's impossible to calculate how many more were uprooted or irreversibly damaged in the storm. "It's apocalyptic," says Jeff Morry, president of the Ottawa-based Tree Canada Foundation, which has set up a Maritime Hurricane Relief fund on its Web site.

Juan took two lives and will cost the city an estimated \$40 million when all the bills are in. People are responding: they poured up more than \$1 million during a radio fundraiser for the storm-damaged Public Gardens, and a steady stream of companies and individuals are calling city hall to pledge cash for Point Pleasant. But putting a price



tag on the forces of fallen trees will take more than an accountant with a calculator. Halifax's hundreds of thousands of trees have made it, on a square footage basis, Canada's largest "urban forest"—it's been at least 40 per cent tree-covered, nearly double that of, say, Toronto, which calls itself "a city in a forest."

And Halifax's tree cover has become of the most diverse on the continent: in addition to all the native species, European

relatively invasive oaks and elms were planted after the 1947 explosion that levelled the area.

Juan was devastating in a different way. Trees on streets running east to west suffered the most because they were hit head-on by the storm surge from the south. Rumbling oaks and elms, with canopies too big to be shielded by surrounding buildings, were uprooted, sheared off or the tips or original trunks, oaks and other shal-

ter lies with neighbours, reduced domestic and neighbourhood crime and helps calm kids with street on deficit disorder. "There are a whole host of consequences in losing a good number of trees in a community," stresses William Sullivan, associate professor of natural resources and environmental sciences at the University of Illinois, and an expert on the relationship between the environment and health.

So, now what? Because of a shortage of



urban neighbourhoods have been entirely stripped of their oaks, elms, birches and spruce

settlers have been planting Old World varieties here since Edward Cornwallis and his men arrived from England in 1789. The beloved Public Gardens, which lost some 60 trees to Juan, houses

transplants from as far away as China and Cyprus. You can also glimpse Norway spruces, Scotch pines, English beeches, as well as varieties of lindens, oaks and oaks from the hope that have been adorning Halifax streets and gardens for up to two centuries. In spots it's even possible to tell a neighbour's history by looking at the trees—for example in the city's North End, where the

low round trees were easily ripped from the ground. "Every tree has a weakness," says Simpson. "It might be the roots, the canopy, the trunk or the branches. A hurricane has a way of finding them."

Every tree lost will have an effect on the city. Trees cool the air, filter out carbon dioxide, and provide homes for mammals and insects. "Without trees we wouldn't be alive," says Stephen King, a senior adviser to the city on sustainable resource management. At the very least, the quality of life declines: a growing body of research shows that looking out of the window at a natural tree landscape improves concentration, reduces stress and helps people recover better from trauma. Experts even think having trees around promotes clos-

eness in recent years, Halifax had been planting only a few hundred seedlings annually—far less than the thousands needed to make up the city's tree canopy. King is confident the city will come through with the cash for a sweeping new urban-forest master plan for Halifax, which was already being planned when Juan hit. But any replanting will have to wait. For now, the main focus is on citizen safety and dealing with the countless tonnes of fallen trees.

Walking through Point Pleasant, Simmons talks about the park's ability to regenerate itself. It is, after all, a remnant of the Acadian hardwood forests that once blanketed Nova Scotia since the sea. "Nature looks after itself," he says. Even if it's sometimes slower to be Halifax's worst enemy.



POLAR GAMBIT

The Governor General's 'politics of indirection' produces mixed results

INSTEAD OF DIRTY, grey cobble, the bright yellow bus puffed out a plume of steam, much like a boiling tea kettle, as it carried a group of visiting Canadians around Reykjavik. They were there to accompany Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson on her much vaunted state visit to three northern co-located countries. And while a bus may seem like an odd mode of transportation in a visiting dignitary, it too had a Canadian connection. One of two such buses used in the Icelandic capital's public transit system, it was powered by a renewable energy source, hydrogen fuel, with technology developed, manufactured and installed by Burnaby, B.C.'s Ballard Power Systems Inc. By happenstance, Clarkson and her husband, Sir Martin John Robinson-Jones, were aping for a low-key approach in personalizing the hydrogen ceremony. Or as she put it, it's all part of the "politics of indirection"—essentially using metaphor to kick-start Canada's northern political and business dealings.

Since visits by government officials are meant to be discreet affairs, using pomp and pageantry to sell the best Canada has to offer. And the Sept. 23-Oct. 15 delegation to Russia, Finland and Iceland, in fact, re-

Clarkson lays a wreath on the tomb of the Icelandic leader in a Moscow cemetery

cluded an anonymous cross-section of notable Canadians: film-maker Denis Avast, UN adviser Maurice Boring, retired general Ronan Dillane, northern Finn Mural, Jane Ungar, Michael Ondaatje and Wayne Johnston, architect Arthur Erickson, and photographer Edward Lock, among others on hand for varying lengths of time.

But the trip sparked controversy over the five Clarkson felt. Not only would five it would cost more than \$1 million, a House committee announced it wanted to cover the spending to the governor general's office. Clarkson made it clear that as the Queen's representative, she could not appear before the committee, but agreed to send some of

her staff. Committee members, not wanting to appear to be on a witchhunt following the scandal surrounding former privacy commission George Radwanski, did not push the matter. They were then outraged that it cost roughly \$17,000 to fly two staff members back from Finland to testify.

Whether the state visit was ultimately good value as a spin operation, the support at Guelph, a bustling city of 115,000 in northern Ontario, highlighted one of the drawbacks of sending 16 locations in 24 days. The anti-traffic and frozen growing crop in that country, Guelph is a hub for highways and features an industrial park filled with high-tech companies as well as a sprawling modern university. But the visit was so brief that almost no Canadians, including Clarkson, got the same rights as those proffered to the city's thousands of tourists from an economic boom. "It's going to be hard to schedule things we've seen in a flash," said one local delegate. "It's an opportunity missed."

But not for the Canadian wine industry. And, a wine connoisseur, hosted a mid-morning tasting in Helsinki's hotel. Several wines from Ontario's Niagara region and British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. Fer-



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Diplomacy | >



Iceland's top vacationers reached some 2,600 glasses of the Canadian wines, swilled and doctored that some were worth a second taste. They particularly liked a pinot noir from B.C., and Finland's state-owned liquor company agreed to let Canadian wines sit a smidgen of the feedback.

For some Finns, learning that Canada produces wine was an eye-opener. Risto Uusimäki, editor-in-chief of Oulu's local paper, the *Kalevi*, said people are familiar with Canada and like Canadian—but mainly because of money. Personality in the *Financial Times* Lingua while several Canadians are in Oulu's home town, the *Kalevi* (Helsinki) "I don't ever know Canada had wine," Uusimäki added, as he topped an *Olmeca* wine during a toast for the state visitors.

Clarkson and her colleagues there then 50 also visited the Sámi community of Inari in the far north of Finland. Formerly known as Lapland, the 16,000 Sámi, as they call themselves, are the indigenous people of northern Scandinavia. Welcomed by locals in dressed in their traditional blue, yellow, red and green clothing, Clarkson guided over the thrill of finally meeting the elusive, fabled "Lappi" she'd read about while

President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson and his wife offer a warm welcome to Iceland.

visiting as a child.

That focus on indigenous peoples was welcomed by the three Canadian hosts who reached out the more so—Sheila Watt Clouston, chairwoman of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Peter Inge, the Canadian ambassador to Helsinki, and Mary Simon, Canada's ambassador for circumpolar affairs. They had no doubt about what value the tour gave them opportunity to meet with the leaders of Russia, Finland and Iceland to promote gatherings, at local tables and during state dinners, where they could talk about the risks of economic climate change, environmental issues and the sustainability of their culture. The tour concluded with the unveiling of an Icelandic site, an hour's drive from the coast, on the north, instead made the Canadian embassy in Reykjavík, and the opening of an Inuit art show in Helsinki, a Finnish city on the Arctic Circle.

During the visit to Inari, some 300 km north of Rovaniemi, Watt Clouston, Inge and Simon also joined Clarkson and Pekka

Alho, the president of the Sámi parliament, at a round table discussion. Unlike the Inuit in Canada, Finnish Sámi, whose parliament has only advisory powers, have no land claims agreements or even traditional rights to their land. That means any EU efforts to the Sámi are a long way off. "It's fortunate that you have in Helsinki," Alho said. "Even if the Sámi are not here to promote modern living, it's ridiculous." Ultimately, the "policy of inclusion" may pay dividends. Finnish President Tarja Halonen welcomed the diverse in discuss climate change and environmental issues. "We need the energy, the expertise and the co-operation," she said. The three Canadians can likely expect to see more joint efforts like Iceland's hydrogen-powered bus in September, Ireland and Macedonia, with sailing population of Icelandic Canadians, formally agreed to work more on developing hydrogen technology, now which Canada has already invested \$100 million. And Canada's circumpolar region may come to see a country that produces more than hockey players, one that's northern enough to have a strong, lower population, and south enough to produce decent wine. ■



As Haiti's economic woes continue to grow more dire, for those living in the slums life becomes even more precarious and danger is mounting.

IN THE SHADOW OF SUFFERING

The promise of democracy has vanished, ALEXANDRE TRUDEAU reports

EWENT is a hell in search of joy. I had never been to the Caribbean nation and one hour's ride away about is like I have long encountered the idea that Haiti is just like Africa, and thought that I would find much of the same atmosphere there that I know and love so well in Africa. Any news that does come out of Haiti these days dwells on the failures and misdeeds that continue to befall the island nation of eight million people. I thought I would focus on the triumph of the human spirit in the midst of disaster and a fierce poverty—the great joy born only of the worst misery.

I had seen this great joy in squashed shantytowns and poor villages all over Africa. I had seen the radiant smile of young beauties strutting in the street, amid disease and hunger, head thrown in a jangle, stomped over as they fled their families in sewage-drenched, adobe-crumbling, adobe children looking around a plastic bag filled with eggs with more passion than a World Cup soccer player. I had once travelled in the bar car on a night train wading through the African bush when it briefly halted in a remote village. A man outside called out to a passenger: "Ben, brother, I beg you." "In French?" I asked, but was poured out the window into the cupped hands of the villagers, who flattered the precious head as best he could and his mouth, shouting in the darkness.



"God, that is good!" This is why I continue to return to Africa, for the joy. This is why I wanted Haiti! But I didn't find this joy there.

THE BODY of Amiot (the Cuban) Misset was discovered in a ditch off a country road in late September. It was not a pretty sight. The eyes were gouged out. The heart removed. The face Caribbean was had taken as well. The Cuban was a neighborhood boss, a gangster chief from the northern Haitian town of Gonaïves. He was the rebel leader of the colorful "Grenade Army," which fought the military junta that seized control of the country in 1991, just seven months after Jean-Bertrand Aristide's

1990, anti-government protests toppled the regime and Baby Doc fled an exile in France. A succession of leaders followed before Aristide's election—and quick ouster.

Intense international pressure, including the landing of 23,000 U.S. troops under the UN command and Operation Uphold Democracy, finally brought Aristide back into power in 1994, and ended the killing that had claimed nearly 4,000 lives in four years of fighting. But despite outside help, including \$552 billion in aid, Haiti is backsliding. Foreign funding has dried up, economic conditions continue to worsen even as the country rears its long-held scars of being the poorest and most demoralized country in the Western Hemisphere.

At the same time, Aristide's grip on power has become more authoritarian. Opposition radio stations have been forbidden by Aristide's partners. A corrupt police force in the service of the ruling party has been involved in numerous human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests and summary

THE NATION has held its status of being the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere.

resistance. For the hundreds of thousands who lived the secrets of Part 1 or Part 2 on Oct. 15, 1994, to great Amanda's return, the promise of democracy and already with the country's violent past has vanished. Many of those same people accused to the streets across the island last week to mark the ninth anniversary of Amanda's return. But this time they chanted, "Tell the Amer-icans to take Amanda back! We don't want him anymore!"

Haiti has two chief sources of income. A large percentage of all drugs entering the U.S. come through the country (Luxury homes and fancy cars are often the fruits of this clandestine trade.) As well, a huge number of Haitians reside abroad, including more than 70,000 in Canada, and every month huge sums of money are transferred to relatives in the island. Though plentiful, neither of these sources profits the government much. And in truth, the government has very little impact on Haiti's poor. In the slums, there are no health services, no public education, no working infrastructure.

The only real contact the government has with the masses is through its armed gangs that control the slums. They are paid off to ensure that the poor maintain some level of allegiance to the central authority. In Babouin, the Gensetes slum where Melyeur lived, the poor often turned to him for protection. Long after Amanda's return, things began to fall apart a few years ago when the Gensetes began speaking out against the government and headed to jail. But last year, in a dramatic turn of events, his supporters, using violence, returned through the prison walls and freed him to continue his campaign against Amanda. "Then, suddenly, he was dead."

I GO TO GONAIVES to attend Melyeur's funeral. Ever since his death, the city has been the scene of intense rioting. The slums have been burning up, the slum gangster's threat is sure to be colorful—and some Most Haitians are Roman Catholics, but under pressure from the authorities and afraid of potential violence, no Catholic church has agreed to hold the service. Deep in the slums, however, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints open its doors to the angry rioters. And from the pulpit, the crowd prodded into the Mormon church is worked up. People shout: "Down with Amanda! Amanda is a criminal! Down

with the assassin!" I ask one of the mourners why the Gensetes had been assassinated, wondering if the crowd riot was a work. The young man tells me: "His eyes had seen Amanda's crimes and his heart was with the people against Amanda."

Despite the hot sun, the police sport black and red when they show. Some wear body armour and ski masks. They wield tear gas and much more. The police

building. My dagger friend, whose name is Delian Hillen, follows me. My white pants are new yesterday, and Delian tells me that if he was wearing such dirty clothing, he would be heavily judged. But because I am a foreigner, he says, it will be overlooked. Under his arm he carries a grade-school French grammar book. "For a teacher," he says with a smile. I ask him what he thinks about his country. "A country? This is a nice



Many Haitians living abroad send money to help their relatives on the island.

chief" casually tells me his officers will exhibit "zero tolerance" toward the crowd. Melyeur's coffin finally arrives, draped—casually—in an American flag, carried by a reinforcements bunch into the church. A well-dressed young man tells me I should be careful on the crowd. "If something happens," he says, "there will be a stampede." Not a minute later, the police make an example of a hotheaded young protester and beat him so thoroughly he has to be carried away.

At this first sign of violence, the crowd grows and I jump on a fence to avoid being crushed. But people ignore my signal and continue challenging the police. I climb up to the second story of an unfinished concrete

country," he answers. "This is a project for a cemetery—and the project is not getting off the ground."

The church is too packed for me to go in. And anyway, there is no service, just shouting, shouting and chanting. A mob of Mormon missionaries in crisp white shirts arrive. They circle the building, then go in. At the centre is the open casket, the gently composed body of the murdered man. The Mormons withdraw—dismissing their temple to the slums.

When the coffin is carried back out into the streets, Delian tells me that, "as a symbol of protest, they will bury the Gensetes beneath the main entrance of our neighborhood." But, he adds, "the police will try and stop them." I follow the mob. Sure enough, a huge hole has been dug in the middle of the street. A police car is parked head-on, four heavily armed riot cops surround it. The crowd ignores them and swarms around the grave. Riots begin today. The police cut windows and smash. Gunfire echoes as the police shoot just above the crowd. The street starts piling in all directions. I retreat into a space between two churches, and encounter a panicked

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woman who starts shaking me. "What the hell is happening?" she asks. "What the hell are you?"

The police are chasing an axe man out of the neighborhood by firing wildly into the air. But in the process, one man already pouring urine into the hole. It's dark. There in the slums, beneath the poverty, the Cubans will die.

Early the next morning, all around Habana's outskirts, heaps of tires are burning. Wrecked cars have been dragged out to block the way. Rubble and broken glass are strewn across the streets. Gangsters glow on the corners. I enter the slum in search of Delaney, when I finally find him, he is overjoyed, but secretly disapproving when he sees my diary about "No, this just isn't do," he says, shaking his head. One corner the police, and beside a wrecked car and an open carport Delaney brings dignity back to my forehead. "Do you know that I have to hide to learn here?" he suddenly asks me. "My own neighbors are suspicious of learning, and men have been killed for trading. Then again, I don't know why I am even bothering to try to learn things. There is no way out of this place without a powerful godfather or godmother to secure me any kind of job. This place is simply brutal."

IN THE CAPITAL. Port-au-Prince, I find Annette Lheret, a former Canadian who conducted a workshop for local journalists. The core of the program, held in a country where journalists have been killed, focuses on the reform of freedom of speech. After my stay in a summer, I went from Australia, a media journalist to a hospital. The program did, he'd walked past the presidential palace without stopping as the flag was being lowered. For that, the police descended upon him with a vengeance. Now, Annette is hooked up to monitors and begs for his vital functions.

Car Solari, President's former aide, is a powerful chairman and a world unto itself. The man with the little presence; too driven to even go there. People laugh at me when I say I want to meet the place. "Bring nothing but you are not able to pay with," he says yes, "and go there with God."

On my arrival, and in the company of a photographer, I'm approached by Forest, a stocky little gangster like a diplomat, but tells me I have a chance to make it. I can pay one person for a "protection" while I'm

there, and I can pay many to take Forest up on his offer for protection, and absorb him as a guide.

People live near open sewers in cargo containers surrounded by mud, or in scattered shacks made of plastic and driftwood. Car Solari is the place where Haiti's drug statistics seem most real. 60 percent of the country's substances are analabs sold, the income mortality rate is the worst



The very real contact the government has with its people is through the armed forces.

in the Americas, and human life expectancy is a mere 54 years.

As we make our rounds, we attract a number of young thugs. One of them proudly tells me his name is M.C. Chouma, and that he'll be people who won't give him money. They seem like criminals, and ask Forest how he manages to stay on top of his fellow gangsters. "Because I am a rich boy," he answers. "And I'm not afraid to show it."

The folk in Port-au-Prince live in overcrowded homes in the hills surrounding the city. The masses below them feast in the hot, swampy lowlands, or on the slopes of steep ravines. Periodically, landslides on the debris-ridden slopes bring down landslides. During my stay in Haiti, the rule of

ANY NEWS of Haiti these days chants out the failures and misfortunes that befall the people

the above. Serge's fate is made of slender blades with an ill-fitting roof.

He wants that plot of land on a five-year lease, and is slowly trying to gather up money to expand his small shop. I mention landlubber, but I don't push the question when he doesn't respond. I sense that Serge cannot afford to think of the disaster that might threaten his family, his house and his entire world.

At my request, Serge shows me a "painting" of his. It looks like a big black canvas. On closer examination I notice that he has carefully drawn an assortment of children, men, women and people—all in charcoal.

"When I get some more money I'll put the paint on it," he tells me. Serge's work is known, he shows me a book on Haiti art that contains him. In it, he says: "I love flowers, butterflies and I paint imaginary landscapes where the children are happy and there are beautiful colors." He adds in the book, "I wrote poems for children. That is one I have created in the shadow of misery / No one comes to my rescue / The day, the night, pass through me reflecting my existence." It speaks to the agony of so many Haitians.

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A YEAR AFTER HE ARRIVED IN RWANDA, as the confident commander of a UN peace-keeping force in 1993, Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire flew home to Canada, broken and suicidal. On his watch, 800,000 Rwandans had been murdered in only 100 days while Dallaire—discredited at every turn by his political masters—had been powerless to help. In *Shattered Lands with the Devil* (Random House), Dallaire, 57, retired from the military, offers what he calls “a grim account for the slaughtered thousands.” It’s an astonishing eyewitness account of a more brutal genocide—and the complete failure of the international community to stop it. Excerpt.

With Maj. Brent Beaudry, my military assistant and the only Canadian soldier under my command, on April 9 were Macik Pask and Stefan Sosc. They were both Polish military observers who had briefly been befriended in the Gikondo Parish Church, known as the Polish Mission because it was run by priests from Poland. Pask and Stefan had not lasted long under the new regime at the mission, but two of their fellow Polish officers had stayed. One evening, a faint radio call had come from the men at the mission begging for help. The batteries on the radio were dying and all Brent could make out was that

state. The priests were applying first aid to the survivors. A baby cried out next to food on the breast of its dead mother, a sight Brent has never forgotten. Pask found the two Polish observers, who were in a state of grief and shock, hardly able to relate what had happened. The night before, they said, government troops had cut down off the arms, and then the gendarmes had gone door to door checking sleeping curbs. All Tutsi men, women and children were rounded up and moved to the church. Their screams had alerted the priests and the Poles, who had come running. They were armed at the church doors and slatted up against the



BEARING WITNESS

A decade later, the genocide in Rwanda still haunts the Canadian general who led the UN forces there

there had been killings at the church.

Not knowing what to expect, Brent, Pask and Sosc armed themselves and, hands down, set off to Gikondo in the armored personnel carrier with a Bangladeshi officer and three men. At the church they confronted a scene of unbelievable horror—the first such scene UNAMIR (the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda) witnessed—evidence of the genocide, although we didn't yet know to call it that. In the aisles and on the pews were the bodies of hundreds of men, women and children. At least 15 of them were still alive but in a terrible

condition with rifle barrels at their throats. They were forced to watch as gunmen in the front pews collected the adults' identity cards and burned them. Then the gendarmes walked in a large number of civilian militiamen with machetes and handed over the victims to their killing.

Methodically and with much brutality and laughter, the militia moved from bench to bench, tracking with machetes. Some people died immediately, while others with terrible wounds begged for their lives or the lives of their children. No one was spared. A pregnant woman was thrown bowled

and her fetus severed. Women suffered horrible mutilation. Men were smacked on the head and died immediately or bled to agony. Children begged for their lives and received the same treatment as their parents. Gendarmes were always the target, the victims left to bleed to death. There was no mercy, no hesitation and no compassion. The priests and the Polish observers, gun at their throats, tears in their eyes, and the screams of the dying in their ears, pleaded with the gendarmes for the victims. The gendarmes' reply was to use the rifle barrels to lift the priests' and officers' heads so

that they could better witness the horror. Killing with machetes is hard work, and sometimes in the night the murderers became fatigued with their gruesome task and left the church, probably headed for some sleep before they moved on to the next location. The priests and the military observers did what they could for the few survivors, who moaned or crawled from underneath the corpses that had sheltered them. Since the wounded were too many to take on the APC, the priests stepped behind with them, until a rescue mission could be mounted.

Early the next morning, the priests called

the militia away from bench to bench, loading with machetes. No one was spared.

on the radio and reported that the militia had returned during the night. Our APC had been opened at the church, and the killers had returned to destroy the evidence of the massacre. They had killed the wounded and removed and burned the bodies. The decision to leave the priests and the victims had had disastrous consequences, but was. Some days you make decisions and people live, other days people die.

That evening I called New York and described the situation. They had my reports in hand along with political assessments and indiscriminate killings, we now had an example of systematic ethnic killing in the Polish Mission massacre, and 20,000 Rwandans under our supposed protection. By now there were 500 French paratroopers working out of the airport, and a thousand Belgian paratroopers in Nairobi. To that I could add the 250 U.S. Marines in Bugambura. A force of that size, well-trained and well-equipped, could possibly bring an end to the killings. But such an

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option wasn't even being considered.

April 21, the fifth day of slaughter. The Security Council and the office of the secretary-general were obviously at a loss as to what to do. I continued to receive demands to supply them with more information before they would take any concrete action. What more could I possibly tell them that I hadn't already described in horrific detail? The odour of death in the latrines, the flies, maggots, rats and dogs that swarmed to feast on the dead. At times it seemed the smell had entered the pores of my skin. My Christian belief that been the moral framework that had guided me throughout my adult life. Where was God in all this horror? Where was God in the world's response?

Two thousand Rwandans lost their lives that day as a direct result of the Belgian withdrawal. They had taken refuge after April 7 at the Belgian camp set up at the Desha Bwacu School, joined by a few expatriates. That morning, French troops had surrounded the *campement*, and shortly left, the Belgian company commander, Capt. Lemaire, called Lt.-Col. Doreux, his CO, to request permission for his company to remain at the camp. He didn't mention the 2,000 Rwandans his troops were protecting at the school. When Doreux approved the move and the troops pulled out, the militia stood in, killing almost all of the Rwandans.

Despite our verbal and written reports of the worsening situation, and episodes such as this, no concern was being shown in New York. Maurice Baril, then a major general in charge of the military wing of the UN's peacekeeping department and later Canada's chief of defence staff, had made it clear to me on several occasions that no one was interested in Rwanda. And now, because of the existing rules, they were even less interested. There was a void of leadership in New York. We had sent a deluge of paper and received nothing in return: no supplies, no reinforcement, no doctors.

By mid-April the hospital had no water and very little food, with nothing to cook it in and sent to no wood to heat it. As I walked among the sick they were begging on their knees, pulling at my clothes, holding their babies up to me. I had nothing to ease their plight. I was guided by a few of the leaders to the site where a large mortar bomb had exploded the day before. There were traces of flesh, blood and bile on the immediate area. Dozens of shredded bodies

had been mowed and buried. There were over 100 people still alive who had horrific gashes from the mortar. There had been a panic to get inside the hospital track, and children had been trampled to death. Death was all around them, and now death had started to invade from the sky. I wanted to scream, to vomit, to hit myself, to break free of my body, to end this terrible scene. Instead I struggled to compose myself, knowing composure was critical with so many despairing eyes upon me.



Simon Mwebi With
The Devil: The
Student of Mortality
in Rwanda.
Random House
2003

so sorry that my children had no choice but to listen to me. When we got to the beach, my kids swim and Beth read a book while I sat for hours on two logs watching the events now etched in my mind. What terrible vulnerability we have all had to live with since Rwanda.

As I write those words I am listening to Bernard Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, which evokes and is the purest expression in music of the suffering, mutilation, rape, and murder of 800,000 Rwandans, with the help of the member nations of the only supposedly impartial world body. Ultimately, led by the United States, France and the United Kingdom, that world body aided and abetted genocide in Rwanda. No amount of its cash and aid will ever wash its hands clean of Rwandan blood.

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Digital Takes Over

The digital revolution—TVs without picture tubes, cameras without film and video without videotapes.

In the digital revolution, leading edge quickly becomes old hat. Technologies that once seemed miraculous—digital cell phones, personal computers, e-mail, the Web, DVDs, MP3 digital music players, satellite TV—we now take for granted.

When new technologies hit the mainstream, prices tumble and choices explode. When DVD first appeared in 1997, player prices started at \$500. There were only a few models and hardly any movies. Today you can choose from hundreds of different models starting at under \$100.

The DVD revolution is far from over. DVD recorders have hit the market and prices for these products are also on the way down. New DVD camcorders let you shoot home videos onto small eight-centimeter blank DVDs, take the disc out of your camcorder, put it in your player and show off your videos.

Add a DVD burner to your computer, and you can make DVD movies from tape-based camcorders. Transfer your videos to your computer, edit out the boring bits, add some

special effects, then burn your creation onto a blank DVD. Hollywood, here you come! Digital photography offers similar scope for creativity—at ever more affordable prices. Two-megapixel point-and-shoot cameras, capable of making photo-quality four-by-six-inch pictures, start at under \$200. There are digital cameras to suit every picture-taking need: ultra-compact digicams that fit into a shirt pocket, water-resistant digicams for shooting at the beach, digicams with powerful zoom lenses for wildlife and sports photography, digital SLR (single-lens reflex) models that let you swap lenses. No surprise then that digital cameras are now outselling traditional film-based cameras.

Since the dawn of television, viewers have dreamed about flat televisions you can hang on the wall. They're here now, in the form of big-screen LCD (liquid-crystal display) and plasma TVs only a few inches thick.

In the digital revolution, old limitations disappear. We get TVs without bulky picture tubes, cameras that let you take pictures without costly film or photo-finish, and home videos without the limitations of videotape.

» FastForward

Video cassettes are giving way to DVD for all home-video applications

DVD is the fastest-adapted consumer electronic product in history, replacing VHS video cassettes in popularity just after years. At Roper's Video, DVD rental overtook VHS rental in early 2003, accounting for 65 per cent of all movie rentals.

It's unlike any other format in that household can have multiple ways of watching DVD movies, from the TV to the computer to a PlayStation 2 console—even

in the car," says Sarah Good, manager of media and community relations at Roper's Video. "By mid-2006, we think tape will be pretty much done."

VCRs have lost their last edge: the ability to record. Now Hitachi, LG Electronics, Panasonic, Pioneer, Samsung and Sony offer DVD recorders, with prices diving. Last year, Pioneer's DVR-V700 recorder retailed for \$2,000; its latest, the DVR-S10-A, sells for \$749.



That pricing trend will continue, predicts Andrew Thompson, product manager at Hewlett-Packard Ltd. "It's not unrealistic to think that we'll see DVD recorders at \$599 this year, and \$499 next year," he says. "Eventually, tape will just go away."

DVD recorders have built-in TiV! tuners and programmable timers, so that you can program them to record your favourite shows. "DVD recorders overcome one of the big drawbacks of VCRs," says John Stevens, home electronics marketing manager for Home Electronics.



Top: HP DVD-R10000 (model DVDR10000) is a DVD burner and a digital recorder in one.



Bottom: A DVD recorder with a remote control.



A DVD recorder with a remote control.



A DVD recorder with a remote control.

of Canada Inc. "With DVD you can go straight to the menu and select the moment you want."

The machines use different kinds of blank discs. Some are rewritable, so you can record over and over again. Others let you record only once. The write-once discs are useful for archiving important video, such as home videos. Many DVD recorders have inputs for connecting digital camcorders, so that you can transfer your camcorder footage and record it onto DVD.

Another alternative is to shoot movies directly onto DVD. Hitachi, Panasonic and Sony offer DVD camcorders that capture movies onto small 8-cm blank DVDs. Prices start at \$1,299. With all these camcorders, you can shoot onto a write-once DVD-R disc, then put the disc in a regular DVD player and watch your movie.

The DVD player will show a menu with the scenes you've shot. Use the player remote to navigate to the scene you want, then hit play. There's no winding through tapes, and no fussing with cables to hook the camcorder to your TV.

These camcorders also let you transfer your videos to a personal computer, so that you can edit and enhance your production, then make a new DVD that you can play through your television.

Many new computers have DVD burners and digi-

tal-video connectors for attaching a tape-based digital camcorder, so you can splice up your videos and burn your production onto DVD.

If your home-video footage was shot on an older VHS or 8-mm analog camcorder, you can make DVDs using Hewlett-Packard's new dv3000 DVD Movie Writer (\$399), which connects to your PC using a USB cable. The DVD Movie Writer will digitize your analog home videos and then transfer them to your PC. Using the supplied video-editing software, you can splice up home videos, the result a DVD on the Movie Writer.

So even if you used old analog technology to record family memories, you don't have to fret about the digital revolution.

slideshow on CD that you can play on a DVD player.

Of course, the main use of digital photography is to create printed photographs. The three-megapixel image sensors used in mid-range digital cameras capture enough detail to produce photos as real as four-by-six prints. Four-megapixel sensors, enough resolution for photo-quality five-by-seven-inch pictures, are now available on cameras under \$600. Today's up-market digitals have five-megapixel or better sensors, for enlargements to eight by 10 inches and beyond.

Prices for digital cameras are falling rapidly, while choices expand. Serious photographers have long gravitated to single-lens reflex (SLR) cameras, which offer interchangeable lenses. But digital SLRs

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» Digital Memories

Digital cameras are quickly displacing regular film cameras

This year, digital camera sales will surpass film camera sales in Canada. Rod Smith, president and CEO of Black Photo Corporation, says digital cameras will account for 55 per cent of the 170 store chain's camera sales for 2003.

Part of the appeal of digital is immediacy: you can view images right after you snap them, and easily print them at home. There are also cost advantages: instead of paying to develop and print a whole roll of film, you pay only for the images you print.

And there's an added element of creativity. With photo-editing software like Microsoft Digital Image Suite and Adobe Photoshop Elements, you can remove flaws like red-eyes, adjust colour and contrast, create collages and albums, and even create a



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» DigitalWallArt

High-definition TV and flat-panel displays are a marriage made in digital heaven

Big-screen TVs make watching movies at home truly cinematic, but they take up a lot of real estate. What make big-screen TVs so big are their picture tubes. Almost all direct-view televisions use picture tubes, so do the vast majority of big-screen rear-projection TVs.

However, the correlation between big screens and big cabinets is breaking down. Flat, hang-on-the-wall big-screen televisions have arrived. There are two different technologies: plasma and LCD.

Prices for plasma displays have fallen dramatically in the past few years. Prices for name-brand wide-screen plasma displays start at about \$6,000 for standard-definition models. For a name-brand 42-inch high-definition plasma display that can show new HDTV pictures in all their glory, prices start at about \$8,000. Screen sizes go as high as 60 inches.

"I've seen more movement in the price of plasmas in the last eight months than ever before," says Chris Truscott, national sales manager for LG Electronics Canada Inc. "Prices have fallen by 30 to 40 per cent." As plasma manufacturers add capacity, prices will continue to fall, he predicts.

Sharp offers a 37-inch widescreen high-definition LCD television at \$14,000, while Samsung has a 40-inch model for \$12,000. Pat Burton, vice-president of sales and marketing for Samsung Canada Inc., says prices for LCD TVs are falling by 25 per cent per year.



Future digital art: LCDs, which double as picture tubes, transcend what watching is being like.

LCD technology is also being used in rear-projection TVs. Instead of three picture tubes, Sony's Grand WEGA televisions produce pictures by shining a bright light through three LCD imaging chips. The result is a vibrant, highly detailed picture, from a cabinet that's much shallower than a regular projection TV. Sony's 50-inch Grand WEGA television is only 16.5 inches deep, about the same as Sony's 13-inch WEGA direct-view television.

LCD projection technology is becoming more affordable. Sony now has a 42-inch Grand WEGA widescreen LCD rear projection model for \$3,999, a 50-inch for \$4,999 and a 60-inch for \$6,999. The new 50- and 60-inch models are \$1,000 cheaper than Sony's previous Grand WEGA models.

RCA and Samsung offer rear-projection TVs that use DLP (Digital Light Processing) technology. These offer similar benefits to LCD: ultra-clear pictures and ultra-slim cabinets.

Within five years, digital display technologies like LCD, DLP and plasma will account for the majority of TV sales, predicts Ravi Nookala, vice-president of marketing at Sony of Canada Ltd. "Picture tubes will not go away in the next year," he adds, "but within five years, they'll represent a minority of TV sales in dollar terms."

New display technologies are arriving at a perfect time, just as high-definition TV (HDTV) gains momentum. Like DVDs, HDTV uses digital technique, so its pictures are wonderfully clear and vibrant. But HDTV pictures contain up to six times more detail than DVDs. On a big screen, HDTV pictures look positively cinematic.

In Canada, HDTV is available via satellite from Bell ExpressVu and Star Choice, and from large cable operators such as Rogers Cable Inc. Most of the prime-time programming from the major U.S. networks is available in HDTV, as are special events such as the Stanley Cup finals and NFL playoffs. In Canada, The Movie Network and Movie Central offer movies like *Mystery Report* and *Garfield Returns* in HDTV. Pay-per-view movies available on Rogers in this format include *The Two Towers* and *Conan Live in New Orleans*. During the summer, Discovery Channel Canada and The Sports Network launched HDTV services.

Looking at these new channels on a high-definition flat-panel display will be like looking out a window.



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WEDDINGS ON THE FRONT LINE

Muslims and Jews joined in love face ancient hatreds

THE FOUR AMERICANS were on an unmarked mission in the Gaza Strip to interview candidates for Fulbright scholarships to U.S. universities when a bomb exploded under their vehicle, killing three and injuring one. It was the second attack on an American diplomatic vehicle in Gaza since the second intifada began, and may signal a shift in strategy by militants to broaden the conflict. The attack was condemned by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and his security forces arrested three men belonging to a little-known

group. We met only to find as we could."

Andreas may never return home. Her Jewish mother fled Romania, who lost most of her family in the Holocaust, and her Arab father, from a prominent family living in the Israeli port city of Jaffa, married in the 1950s. Now Andreas and Lavan, a 26-year-old Jewish musician, are trapped between two cultures—and ignoring family plans to break off their engagement. "Getting married involves many dilemmas," she says. "How to raise a child? What identity to endorse? Frequently you fear both sides."

For such couples, violence is a very real possibility in Palestinian-controlled areas. Not only is it a Jewish bride or groom consent to marry, such unions can bring charges of collaboration with the enemy, resulting in prison, beatings or death. Even without physical intimidation, getting married is daunting. Couples must apply to the rabbi's office or Muslim court—but neither will permit interfaith marriage, so people who wish to retain their individual faiths get around

erratic group. But U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called for a broad crackdown, saying there can be no Palestinian state until the attacks cease.

In the shadow of such violence, interfaith, there is another human drama that is rarely reported: It unfolds when Muslims and Jews fall in love and attempt to cross the cultural divide. A number of such couples recently told *Time* about the dangerous obstacles they face.

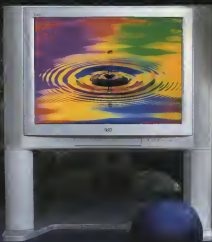
WARM SUMMER Her wedding over Babylon Andreas and her boyfriend, Elan Lavan, as they sped through the darkness just the bombed-out Dhegban area. Over an 81 Ave. Just days earlier, on June 1, 2004, a Palestinian

suicide bomber blew himself up outside the club, killing 21 people. "Images of the dead were racing through my mind as we went by," recalls Andreas, 26. "I thought, 'How lucky we are not to have been blown to pieces.' Then a van in front of the couple's motorcycle suddenly stopped. Four men leaped out and told them they were going to take revenge by attacking Arafat's wedding at a nearby mosque. "They had noticed that I was half Arab, half Jewish," says Andreas. "What would they have done to me?" The couple didn't wait to find out. "Elan held me with one hand, using the other to steer the

Andreas Gelfo and Lavan have defied family pressure to break off their engagement.

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the prohibition by going abroad (usually Cyprus) to marry. Orphans give up their religion and convert to the faith of their spouse. Still others swear in Christianity and are wed in a church. Even then, if the husband is Palestinian, there's often no guarantee he will ever be allowed to live in Israel.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority don't record the number of mixed marriages. But Tel Aviv lawyer Joel Rosenthal says that since the founding of Israel in 1948, thousands of Arabs and Jews have wed. "So many marriages occurred, and yet they are not acknowledged by either side," says Rosenthal, founder of New Family, an organization that won legislation passed to allow couples to bypass rabbinical courts and marry under civil law. "I see the sorrow of our region reflecting through the eyes of these people."

RAHUL, 26, a Muslim Palestinian, and **Yael,** a 28-year-old Jewish woman from Jerusalem, want to marry and raise a family in Israel. The couple, who fear for their safety and asked Althea's not to use their last names, met at a crowded market when Rahul jumped

side. Althea has vowed that he will allow his daughter to wed whenever she wants.

in the mosque to keep a stash of weapons from falling on Yael. "That's how we fell in love," she recalls. "We smiled at one through all those cameras and I thought to myself, 'He's the most handsome man on the world.'" The couple decided to marry, but both Israel and the Palestinian Authority stood ambivalently. When they approached the Israeli Ministry of the Interior for permission to live in Israel, they were given a mound of documents and told to go to the Palestinian Authority to have them filed out. They then traveled to Ramallah, but both were immediately arrested. Yael was released after

two days and Rahul was held for weeks and beaten. "They said to him, 'Whoever you're marrying a Jew!'" recalls Yael. "You must be talking with with Israel!"

They were also told that if Rahul wanted the documents completed, he had to go to Gaza, where he was born. While in Gaza, Yael stayed with Rahul's family but was ostracized—officials from the Palestinian Authority repeatedly visited and accused Rahul of being an Israeli collaborator. Yael was filed with doubts. "I would like to live in Israel, not in Gaza," she says. "I can't see myself adopting the Muslim mentality. I can't see myself dressed like them."

Yael returned to her whole family stayed in Gaza, but during one of their meetings she became pregnant. When told, Rahul's family was outraged. "They said that all Jews, including those that will be born to us, should be slaughtered," Yael recalls. Some other family friends were put in jail. "They asked me how can I marry an Arab," she says. "So I lost a few friends. I don't need such friends." Today, the couple is no closer to marrying. "We have each other and

'GETTING married involves great dilemmas.' Andrus points out. 'Frequently you fear both sides.'

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want to live together," says Yair, "but we're stranded between heaven and earth."

ARINA MER, the daughter of Gideon Mer, a distinguished Jewish professor of medicine, was one of the first Israelis to ignore parental warnings when she married Sabin Khamsi, an Arab and one of the leaders of the Israeli Communist Party, in the 1950s. They were wed in a Catholic church by a priest who was drunk at the time. But Mer wouldn't realize how deep the divisions ran until 1958, when she joined a protest against the imposition of martial law on Arab villages in Israel. Mer was pregnant with her son Jakana, and went into labour. She was rushed to the hospital, "but the doctors refused to touch her and she nearly bled to death," says her son, Jakana Mer-Khamsi, 45, a well-known actor living in Haifa. "They knew she was married to an Arab. I experienced that mental journey from the day I was born." As he grew up, Mer-Khamsi says, he occasionally asked himself: "Do I hate Arabs and love Jews or do I love Arabs and hate Jews?" That question was on his mind when he met the parents of a Jewish girlfriend. "I was sitting with her translating an Arabic movie," he recalls. "My father walked into the room. I checked her question, but he researched about me and forced her to leave me."

To compensate, Mer-Khamsi for a time adopted his Jewish maternal name and joined an elite fighting unit of the Israeli army. "For a while, yearning for their wouldn't talk to me. Heavily kept secret," he says. But he soon had to face his Arab heritage. The confirmation came in 1970 when he was stationed at the West Bank town of Jenin and a car arrived with three young passengers and their grandfather. When he pushed an order to remove the old man from the car, he ended up in a fight with his commander and was imprisoned for a few weeks and left thinking, "I mean that I realized," he says. "I was I don't belong on the Jewish side."

Mer-Khamsi has spoken out publicly on a number of occasions in support of mixed marriages, but he and his Jewish partner, Michal, decided to avoid the issue after their marriage was once again threatened together. As he watched his own daughter broke out

side their home in Haifa, Mer-Khamsi told Mer-Khamsi that he was to marry whomsoever he wanted. Rosenblum, for one, thinks Mer-Khamsi's vow not to interfere in his daughter's future is courageous. "These mixed couples have a social mission," says Rosenblum. "I believe the future will show us that those who dared follow their hearts are the true leaders of a quiet course to peace in the area."

Perhaps, but love often washes under the stress of straddling two cultures, and the children of divorced parents can face years of emotional upheaval. The situation is complicated because religious control code custody. According to the Jewish religion, if the mother is Jewish, then so is the child. But according to Islam, religion is determined by the male and custody is given to the father. "Children are torn by the conflict," says Salah Talwa, a programme supervisor in the Arab educational system in Israel. "They are in a terrible internal struggle."

"THESE MIXED couples have a social mission," says Rosenblum, "those who followed their hearts are the leaders of a quiet course to peace."

Sometimes the struggle is so painful children grow up hating their parents for marrying outside their race. Said is one of those walking on a beach at Tel Aviv, the 30-year-old woman admits that she once became so angry, "I imagined taking a knife and killing my mother." Her father was Arab and mother Jewish, Said is beautiful with long black hair. As two boys on the beach stare, she looks down, saying bitterly, "If they knew, they wouldn't be wasting their gaze on me." Said believes her parents should never have wed. "My only consolation," she says, "is that I was born out of love."

Given the emotional upheaval, Andronik and Lior's relatives are trying to convince them not to marry. "You're still young," Andronik's mother is saying. "If you can't understand the importance of values, you demand the importance of your children growing up with values." But Andronik says their children will learn the value of tolerance. "Life will put them to the test," he says, "but they will know that there is no such thing as good Arabs and bad Arabs, just as there are no good Jews and bad Jews. There are only good people and bad people." ■

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT



The Benefits of Being There

Incentives: Catch Them While You Can

Meet Donna O'Neill, executive traveller. As vice-president of business transformation for TELUS Corp., based in Burnaby, B.C., she travels frequently to corporate offices across Canada. When she does, she wants efficiency and value.

Efficiency is no problem. O'Neill logs on to her corporate internet, which has a travel site for employees. It presents a selection of travel services from companies with which TELUS has negotiated rate agreements. A few clicks and she has booked her

flight with Air Canada. She doesn't need a ticket. When she arrives at the airport, she slips her credit card into a kiosk and the ticket is printed for her. Off she goes.

But where will she stay? O'Neill can choose from a number of drug-nosed hotels in her destination city. What are her criteria?

"I look for price and the quality of the experience," she says. "Especially price. I feel I have a responsibility to choose the best-priced option from among our travel services. If I can save

a couple of hundred dollars by choosing a hotel a bit further away, I'll do it."

O'Neill epitomizes the contemporary business traveller. Executives and the companies that employ them are sharp-eyed for travel value. They know it's a buyers' market.

"During the past couple of years, the way that businesses look at travel has changed dramatically," says Toronto travel agent Margaret Chenoweth, assistant manager of Coté's Travel & Cruises in Toronto. "They're far more cost-conscious. You don't see wide-open expense accounts any more."

The industry has responded with

discount services and a bit of incentives. Not just because of corporate value hunters like O'Neill, but because executive travel at any price has been curbed by SARS, security fears and various cancellations, such as forest fires in British Columbia and the blackout in Ontario. Consulting

elien," says Casey O'Neill, Singapore Airlines' vice-president for Canada. The airline recently introduced a bonus mileage promotion for bookings made exclusively through its Web site, www.singaporeair.com. Customers who book their own flights scheduled by Nov. 28 can earn up to 40,000 bonus

Other airlines are enhancing their frequent-flyer programs by teaming up with partners. WestJet Airlines has joined the Membership Rewards Program of American Express, offering to redeem points for American Express cardmembers. Free flights are available for as few as 15,000 points.

Calgary-based WestJet, the trend-setter in low-price offers since 1990, now serves 26 Canadian cities and was recently selected as Canadian travel agents' favourite airline in the fourth annual Agents' Choice Awards. It has developed partnerships with Budget Car and Truck Rental, hotel chains including Ramada, Travelodge and Delta Hotels, and other companies to offer special rates.

By far the most wide-ranging options are offered by Aeroplan, the venerable Air Canada frequent-flyer program now owned 50 per cent by Qantas Corp. Plan members can earn Aeroplan points by buying products and services from businesses ranging from golf courses and gas stations to other airlines, numerous hotel and car-rental chains, credit-card companies, the Destination on-line travel agency and even Princess Canada, the long-distance telephone company.

Air Canada and its discount and regional airlines, Tango Zip and Jazz, have introduced offer after offer this year to frequent flyers. Customers booking flights on-line at www.aircanada.com for Canadian destinations (except those of Tango) are offered one Aeroplan mile for every three dollars spent, in addition to regularly earned miles.

"The more all-encompassing the program is, the more ways an airline can add value to its loyalty or frequent-flyer program," says travel agent Chenoweth. "Canadiana has points for everything—it's a well-documented. Corporate clients will absolutely choose an incentive program as opposed to per diem, hands down."

air miles. The miles can be redeemed either on the airline's flagship frequent-flyer program or with any one of 20 partner airlines, including Air Canada. For members of Singapore Airlines' PPS (Priority Passenger Service) Club, frequent-flyer miles can be redeemed even if they are earned within Air Canada's Aeroplan.

Frequent-flyer programs are proliferating and becoming more generous for domestic Canadian travellers as well. Jetgo, the Montreal-based airline launched in June, 2003, introduced a program this September called Jetmiles. Up to 2,000 Jetmiles can be earned on a return flight, with redemptions for free flights starting at only 7,000 Jetmiles. The airline serves 11 Canadian and several U.S. destinations.

"The most important part of frequent-flyer programs is the ability to redeem flights easily," says Michel LaBrosse, president of Jetgo. "Therefore, Aeromiles will make all unused seats available for redemptions."

Jetgo's announcement followed that of CanJet Airlines, which introduced its SmartRewards loyalty program in May. CanJet, a division of BNP Group of Halifax, has kept its program simple. SmartRewards is not based on miles flown. Every one-way trip earns a CanJet customer 1,000 SmartRewards points, and redemptions begin at just 6,000 points.

"As soon as the industry feels itself rebounding, prices will go up and offers will not necessarily be there any more."

firm Pannell Kerr Forster reports that from March through July, 2003, the Canadian hotel industry suffered a deficit of more than 2.7 million room nights compared with a year earlier.

But the picture is changing. Pannell Kerr Forster, the Canadian Hotel Association, the Canadian Tourism Commission and many industry experts are forecasting a travel upswing in 2004. Executive travellers should latch onto today's extraordinary values while they can, because some incentive programs will soon pass their "best-buy" date.

"As soon as the industry feels itself rebounding," says Chenoweth, "prices will go up and offers will not necessarily be there any more."

[Incentives by Air]

The turbulent airline industry has been especially creative in offering incentives to executive travellers. Singapore Airlines, for example, offers the Space Bed, the biggest seat in business class among international airlines. It measures 66 inches by 27 inches and tilts back so that travellers to and from Vancouver can sleep in comfort over the Pacific. When they're awake, they can plug their laptops into an onboard power source without an adaptor.

"There's a need to be thinking of new ways to attract the business travel-



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The wealth of incentives though may be temporary. "We are seeing a recovery in business travel," says Ouyang of Singapore Airlines. "I think people should take advantage of any special promotions by airlines now."

British Airways concurs, and is continuously optimistic about the com-

[Hotel Guests Get the Points]

Hotels like airlines are competing to encourage executive travellers to pile up loyalty points higher and faster.

"As long as the incentive is strong enough, and cuts through the clutter of other offers, you will draw some

Canada or the U.S. that has a similar product," Morrissey says. "We launched it in the fall of last year and have had terrific success with it."

Other hotel chains are similarly looking for uniqueness. Marriott Hotels, serving the upper end of the market, says that its Marriott Rewards program—which *Business Traveler* magazine has named for the past six years as the best hotel rewards program in the world—requires at least 30 per cent fewer points than competitive programs to earn a free seven-night vacation. In September the chain of 2,300 hotels worldwide offered yet another enticement to executives by offering a double points promotion with Visa cards. The points are awarded after the second stay at a Marriott hotel that is paid with a Visa card, and members can continue to earn double points on all subsequent Visa-paid Marriott hotel stays through Jan. 31, 2004.

"The promotion gives Marriott Rewards members the opportunity to earn points twice as fast for free vacations, retail merchandise and more than 250 reward options," says Holly Mendelson, director of marketing for Marriott Rewards.

Delta Hotels, in contrast, emphasizes convenience and time-saving with its loyalty program aimed at budget-conscious travellers. Room upgrades and dining credits are now delivered on the new electronic Delta Privilege membership card. Gold members will get \$450 worth of dining room credits and two suite upgrades on their card after five stays annually while platinum members will get \$900 worth of dining room credits and five suite upgrades after 85 stays in a year.

At the top end of the market, hotels are offering value to the executive traveller not by adding to rewards, but by adding ways to make themselves more irresistible. They offer executives the reassurance that their personal

market share toward you," says Neil Horsely, Canadian marketing director of Best Western International Inc., the world's largest hotel chain with 4,000 hotels in 82 countries. Its Gold Crown Club International loyalty program has three million members, including 150,000 in Canada. "We've seen a huge increase in our membership," says Horsely, "since we started giving people the ability to get their points sooner."

Club members who stay in Best Western hotels at least 15 nights a year obtain platinum status and earn 30 per cent more points than normal, redeemable worldwide. Travellers who stay at least 30 nights a year—not unusual for executive travellers—move to the diamond level, and earn 35 per cent more points. In addition, Best Western is offering a "Double Up" promotion through Jan. 14, 2004, in which Gold Crown Club members can earn double points—or double Aeroplan miles—for their hotel stays.

In another limited-time promotion, Best Western this fall is offering an upgrade coupon for Avis rental cars to anyone who purchases a Visa Travel Card. This is a reloadable, stored-value card that "holds units," each valued at \$25 toward room rate. Most hotels redeem the cards for between two and four units a night, with taxes included.

"I don't believe there's another hotel chain in the mid-range in

Hotels are offering value to the executive traveller not by adding to rewards, but by adding ways to make themselves more irresistible

ing year," says Honor Verrier, the airline's vice-president of commercial services for North America.

With flights connecting to Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, British Airways is well prepared for an upcoming in executive travel. Since the beginning of 2003, it has invested \$1 billion in upgrading its worldwide services, the largest investment of its kind in airline history.

"What's the biggest incentive for executive travellers? A good night's sleep. We found in research that the No. 1 priority of international air travellers is to be able to sleep," Verrier says. With that knowledge, British Airways has become the only airline serving Canada and the United Kingdom to offer a rest that converts to a completely flat bed for business-class travellers. Up to 70 of them are available on a flight through the airline's Club World program. They are also available with greater privacy in first-class cabins of 14 passengers.

British Airways makes a point of offering a variety of service levels—four of them, in fact. In addition to First, Club World Business and World Traveller Economy, the airline has just introduced World Traveller Plus.

"With the economic downturn in the last couple of years, it became apparent that there was a case for having a class between economy and business class," Verrier says.



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preferences will be recognized and that there will be no impediments to the flow of business.

For example, one of the features of the Gold Passport loyalty program of Park Hyatt Hotels is that a platinum-level member is always assured of a room in any given hotel with 72

Passengers now take an average of just four minutes to get through an airport security check and no longer need to turn on laptops

hours' notice, regardless of the hotel's occupancy level. All rooms are equipped with complimentary high-speed Internet service. Guests' personal preferences for things such as room temperature, food and wine are kept on a worldwide database.

Park Hyatt is the luxury brand of the 207-room Hyatt chain. Of its 21 properties worldwide, the only one in Canada is the Park Hyatt Toronto. Rather than renovating the hotel earlier this year completed a \$4-million refurbishment of its south tower complete with marble bathrooms, classic armchairs, silk drapes and feather beds. The renovation was part of an \$80-million investment that the Hyatt chain has made since buying the former Park Plaza in 1999. The centrepiece is the 10,000-square-foot **Silverside Spa**, featuring 17 treatment rooms, acupuncture, aquatherapy and a massage suite for two.

General manager Paul Verrigillo says the poor travel year of 2003, in which 7,000 hotel jobs were lost in Toronto during July alone, has not affected the Hyatt Park strategy.

"This is a hotel that has a ratio of employees to guests of more than one employee per hotel room," Verriglio says. "That's a pretty substantial commitment. We're going to extend the same level of service in good times and in bad times. We're in this for the long haul, and although things in the

travel industry today are a challenge. They're about to get better."

Tracking and Managing Costs

One trend in executive travel may favor those organizations with sophisticated electronic infrastructure.

entertainment expenses," says Ephraim Springfield, business development manager of QIRC Commercial Cards. "Put everything through one program, so you're sure of what you're spending on travelling and entertainment on an annual basis. Then go back to suppliers such as hotels and airlines with the data that the electronic reporting tool provides and say, 'We are operating these dollars with you—let's see a bit more of a corporate discount.'"

[A New Look for Airport Security]

A new federal agency is raising the level of security screening while making it less of a chore to get past security checks.

At the beginning of 2003, a new Crown corporation assumed responsibility for the security screening of passengers and their belongings at 60 airports across Canada. Wearing distinctive new uniforms with a grey and red logo in the shape of a shield, employees of the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority are trained using methods that CATSA president Jacques Duchesneau says are unique in the world. In fact the U.S. Transportation Security Administration has purchased CATSA's training curriculum, developed by training consultants, Oakley Group.

Their task is so fundamental to national and individual security that CATSA has increased staffing at its airports by between 800 and 3,600 screening agents, says Dushawson. "It's clear that the most far-reaching and long-lasting challenge to the air transportation industry is finding ways to implement new security measures in an efficient and effective manner."

Despite the increased scrutiny, Dachstein says passengers now take an average of just four minutes to get through an airport security check and no longer need to turn on laptops to verify their authenticity. [www](#)

tances. That trend is the growing desire of corporate clients to have total knowledge and control of travel costs.

The trend is more advanced in the U.S., says Kathy Kirtan, marketing manager of CIBC Commercial Cards, which offers a system to capture data from credit cards. "The U.S. market is 10 years in front of us in having full expense-management systems and integrating data into accounting systems," Kirtan says.

But Canadians are catching up. Of about 2,000 corporate customers CIBC Commercial Curbs has gained since entering the market in 1999, most have signed on during the past year.

The CHIC Corporate VISA works this way: a client company stipulates that its executive travellers use the card for all travel and entertainment. When they use the card, airlines, hotels and other organisations that are members of CHIC feed the data to

clients' electronic reporting tool. Clients' travel administrators have access to the tool through the Web and so have complete knowledge of all of the dollars—sometimes amounting to millions a year—spent by their employees, and how they were spent.

Armed with this data, the travel industry will be under pressure to offer even greater incentives to high-value customers. "What's the point of a corporate card program? The overall point is to consolidate your travel and

entertainment expenses," says Ephraim Springfield, business development manager of CIBC Commercial Cards. "Put everything through one program, so you're sure of what you're spending on travelling and entertainment on an annual basis. Then go back to suppliers such as hotels and airlines with the data that the electronic reporting tool provides and say, 'We are spending these dollars with you—let's see a bit more of a corporate discount.'"



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5 WAYS TO MAKE CANADIANS HEALTHIER

Cover | Health Report | BY ROBERT MARSHALL

We know some of the ways we're harming our health. So why don't we stop?

WE MUST BE doing something right. By global standards at least, Canadians present a picture of health. How else to explain our comfortable perch among the top 10 nations in terms of that ultimate measurement, life expectancy? We're right up there with Andorra, San Marino and half a dozen other world leaders, our 2003 average of 79.3 years only slightly short of Japan's pace-setting 81.4. That's the good news. And the bad? Just about everything we hear or read about our lamentable lifestyles and overburdened health-care system. You'd think we were dead set on a course of self-destruction, and deter-

mined not to do anything about it. And maybe we are.

In this second report on the status of health of Canadians, we examine five examples of health "hot spots" where we know people are in trouble, even know a lot about how to fix them, but still those problems continue to take their toll. They are:

- Too many young children starting off life in stressed circumstances.
- The crushing impact of depression on growing numbers of us.
- Rates of obesity still climbing in the face of the over-

whenever and ever that obesity hits

■ Stubbornly high rates of smoking, especially among young women

■ Wasting rates that leave patients in desperate need of, say, new hips and knees dangling in bureaucratic limbo

No surprises there. Who even seriously familiar with the health of Canadians could n't have named those problems, and many others, for years? So what on earth does it take to set things right?

"You might not want to ask Roy Romanow. It's been almost a year since the former Saskatchewan premier unveiled, to great fanfare, his report on the future of Canada on health care, pinpointing the major problems and calling for the creation of a national health council to help focus all levels of government and the health-care providers on some solutions. And now he's a little testy. Or "puzzled," as he more diplomatically puts it. "Somehow," says Romanow, "the political people whose job it is to respond to those wishes have been unwilling and/or unable to do so" (Q&A, page 66).

Obesity is a prime example of a health issue that cries out for a coordinated response. We know the stats: 12.3 percent of the population classified as obese in 1996-97, 14.9 percent by 2000-01, the most recent numbers from Statistics Canada. "For I don't see any hard evidence that governments are responding to this," says a clearly frustrated Romanow. "A lot of doctors, a lot of nurses, a lot of health-care providers at the ground level talk about obesity. But do I see a broad national approach? I don't, yet." To his mind, that's particularly vexing because, after 28 months of researching health-care shortcomings, he came away among the three crises most in need of attention. The others? Smoking—and a critical index in terms of early childhood development—immunization policies.

For the past four years, we've published a data-based Health Report each October on the state of health in the major communities. This time, with no new data due from Statistics Canada until next year, the following pages focus on those five hot spots noted above—areas in which Canadians' health is clearly suffering. They point to ways that better education, attitudinal shifts and other measures can help turn those problems around. And as Romanow notes, a little more coordination at the national level wouldn't hurt.



A HEAD START ON LIFE

MOST ANY MAP of Vancouver can point you to a street, park or playing field. What makes University of British Columbia health-care expert Clyde Hartman's map so compelling is that they peer into the future. They are neighborhood maps of childhood potential mapping, by their address, the local kids' destinies—their chance of a secure upbringing, degree of emotional security, likelihood of school success, even their risk of health problems lifelong.

There is no magic to it. The Early Childhood Development Mapping Project—led by Hartman with a team of academic, government and community partners—is the first in Canada to chart the variables that influence early childhood development in neighborhoods province-wide. The initial results, while preliminary, are troubling in their long-term implications. Children in the poorest neighborhoods—say, north-central and east-side Vancouver—suffer a disproportionate degree of “developmental vulnerability.” Poverty puts children behind from birth, and keeps them behind for life.

There's growing evidence that a child's earliest experiences “have a more powerful and long-lasting effect on subsequent health, well-being and competence than had been previously thought,” Hartman writes in a study calling for a national early childhood development strategy. The maps show that such problem indicators as low birth weights, crime rates, child protection investigations, health problems and lower measures of literacy, social performance and emotional security all parallel “patterns of neighborhood childhood ratings.”

If money can't buy happiness, it can offer a likelihood of a stable home, a nutritious diet, adequate nutrition, and the kind of involved parenting—from reading books to encouraging participation in games and sports—that

involved parenting actually helps shape kids' brain development

YOUR EYES DESERVE AN optometrist



As the poet says, the eyes are windows to the soul. The eyes are also windows to health and well-being, just as you take care of your general health with annual medical checkups, and your oral health with regular visits to the dentist, it only makes sense to take care of your precious gift of vision with regular eye health examinations.

"Serious eye disease can appear and progress without any warning or symptoms—no matter what your age or state of health," warns Dr. Scott Marlett, President of the Canadian Association of Optometrists. "A regular eye examination is the additional preventive step you should take to make sure that your eyes will last you a lifetime."

Canada celebrates Eye Health Month in October every year with the objective of promoting awareness about eye vision and, just as importantly, eye health.

How OFTEN should you visit your optometrist?*

PRESCHOOL, BIRTH TO 5 YEARS

Immediately, if parents notice a problem. Otherwise, by age 3 and again prior to entering school.

SCHOOL AGE, 6 TO 16 YEARS

Annually or every two years

ADULT, 20 TO 64 YEARS

Every two years

OLDER ADULT, 65 TO 69 YEARS

Every one to two years

SENIOR, 70 YEARS AND OLDER

Annually

THROUGH A CHILD'S EYE

Parents will often create a back-to-school "to-do" checklist for their children before beginning the school year. Did a regular visit to an optometrist top the list?

An annual visit to the optometrist plays an integral role in inspiring good health habits that will last a lifetime for children, and is also the best way to provide them with the basic tools they need to meet their potential.

Research studies have established a clear connection between good vision and learning. Undetected visual problems can also impact a child's self-esteem, physical coordination and social and behavioral development.

"A visual assessment by an optometrist by age six months, followed by regular eye checkups throughout life, as recommended by his or her optometrist, are important steps to monitoring your child's development," points out Dr. Donnie Morrow, Chair of the National Children's Vision Initiative of the Canadian Association of Optometrists. "It can also detect an as-yet undiagnosed disease best treated at an early age."

Even children who can pass a 20/20 vision screening test at school or at the doctor's office may not possess other vision skills needed to read and learn. "At least 10 per cent of all learning in the early years is based on the ability to see things clearly and accurately," cautions Dr. Morrow. "And one in four children has a vision problem serious enough to affect their learning and development."

CONTACT LENS WEARERS NEED TO KEEP THEIR EYES OPEN

As Halloween approaches, teens and adults alike are decorating their eyes with novelty contact lenses—a trend that worries Canada's optometrists. "Contact lenses come into direct contact with your eyes," says Dr. Deaneand Foss, a professor at the University of Waterloo's School of Optometry. "So improper maintenance or a poor fit could result in eye discomfort, and the possibility of very serious eye damage."

In short, it's OK to turn your brown eyes blue—but only with the advice of an eye care professional. "Although contact lenses are safer than ever, only an optometrist is qualified to select the right lenses for you based on your individual needs and your eye's measurements," says Dr. Ralph Chou, a colleague of Dr. Foss and associate professor at the University of Waterloo's School of Optometry.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration now warns the American public that cosmetic contact lenses must be sold and purchased by prescription only and supplied by licensed eye care professionals. But Canadians can still purchase decorative contact lenses from beauty stores and some pharmacies, without a prescription or the advice of an eye care professional. Under pressure from the Canadian Association of Optometrists and other contact lens specialists, Health Canada has agreed to conduct a thorough risk assessment of this issue. In the meantime, the Canadian Association of Optometrists urges consumers not to make a hasty decision that puts vision at risk.

AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

Imagine a blurry spot when you look directly at an object. That's the reality for thousands of elderly Canadians who suffer from a condition known as age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The leading cause of blindness or severe irreversible vision loss in Canada and the developed world, AMD can slowly rob its victims of their ability to read, drive a car or see their loved ones.

Symptoms may be gradual, but can start with blurred vision, distorted images, or a dark spot or "blot" in the middle of the field of vision. Vertical lines can bend or become wavy. Eventually, the centre of one's field of vision blurs, and all details can become significantly diminished.

According to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, one in four Canadians will have clinical signs of AMD by age 75. AMD is most likely to occur anytime after age 50, when the blood supply nourishing the macula

can become compromised. Other groups at risk include smokers and people who have had extensive exposure to ultraviolet light.

"The earlier the detection, the better the chance that treatment or preventive actions may have an effect," points out Dr. Jean Hennes, president-elect of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

This quiet eye disease will finally achieve international attention at a national forum in Toronto in January 2000. Canadian members of the AMD Alliance International, a non-profit alliance of vision and sensory organizations, have invited experts from both the private and public sectors to address the need for further information and coordinated research on the cost of blindness to Canadian society.

VISION 2020: THE RIGHT TO SIGHT

"There are nearly 45 million blind people and 135 million with low vision in the world—90 per cent of whom live in developing countries," says Dr. Scott Marlett, past president of the World Council of Optometry. "These individuals pay an enormous personal, social and economic cost, reduce limitations on their education and life choices, and place a significant burden on their family, their community, and their social and health services."

Nevertheless, 80 per cent of the world's blindness is avoidable. The major causes include cataracts, onchocerciasis (river blindness), trachoma (an easily spread eye infection), and xerophthalmia (severe childhood blindness caused by vitamin A deficiency). The treatments available for the prevention and cure of these ailments are among the most successful and cost-effective of all health interventions.

The Canadian Association of Optometrists is proud to endorse Vision 2020, a worldwide concerted effort designed to eliminate preventable and treatable blindness by the year 2020. Vision 2020, in conjunction with the World Health Organization's Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness, has taken on responsibility to increase awareness of blindness as a major public health issue.

The Canadian Association of Optometrists represents over three thousand Doctors of Optometry, the primary eye care providers who spot often in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, management and prevention of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures, as well as the diagnosis of certain manifestations of systemic diseases.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON
EYE HEALTH, VISIT WWW.OPTO.CA
OR CALL 1-888-263-6676.

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* Depending on your individual circumstances, you may need more frequent visits. This chart will advise you if you need to stop by a vision care professional.

actually shape brain development. Those not prepared intellectually or emotionally for school are more prone to dropping out, early pregnancy, criminal activity, margin al jobs and, ultimately, such health problems as heart disease, high blood pressure and adult-onset diabetes, Hertman notes.

It's a mere government that pays more than \$6 service to children and family. The federal and provincial governments launched the National Children's Agenda six years ago to work toward eliminating child poverty, yet progress is elusive. The number of children in poverty has dropped to one in six, from one in five, says the advocacy group.

FIRST STEPS
Advocates such as B.C.'s First Call are leading the campaign for some benefits, higher child benefits, especially for those on social assistance, a national child-care program and more affordable housing.

Campbell seeded Active BC, a Web site with a heavy emphasis on childhood development assistance (www.activebc.ca). "All of us need help to achieve our goals," he said. At the same time, the province's Ministry of Children and Family Development is shelling \$70 million and 525 jobs. The gap between word and deed is all too typical, says Steve Remtma, communications adviser for First Call, a B.C. child advocacy coalition. "Governments have been known to talk a lot about doing things for families with children," he says, "but they don't seem to come through at the end of the day."

Cheryl Propchuk, executive director of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society, sees growing anger among its clients. "We know a lack of food can affect a child's ability to learn and grow, and it reduces their resistance to infection," she says. "We also know that it creates exponential stress on the family when children go hungry." Besides, she says, any savings from cutting budgets will be offset by the cost of lost opportunities. It's simple, says Propchuk. "We're not providing poor children with the ability to perform to their potential."

KEN MACQUEEN



SOMEONE TO LEAN ON

HEATHER BAXTER uses a car-window scraper to chip away the ice that covers her friend Scott's windshield. When she can read his name, Baxter looks down, lights a candle and puts it, a picture of Scott and because they used to hang out and smoke together—several cigarettes aside his grave. Then Baxter and a few friends from her days at Toronto's St. Oliver Monast high school

one wants to talk about it," says Upshall. "Nobody wants to make a diagnosis."

Ask Baxter. After Scott's death—the fourth suicide of an Oliver Monast student in five years—she decided the world's going to wait for school and health officials to take action. She co-founded Creative Awareness of Teenage Suicide to raise the profile of child and teen depression. CATS holds monthly meetings on

OUTCASTS

Depression is the year's leading cause of disability worldwide, and it's easily treated. But experts say the stigma still attached to it discourages its victims from seeking help.

Heather credits her mom and friends for sticking by her.

A scene much like that unfolds each March 6 at a Toronto cemetery. At 21, Baxter isn't supposed to be old enough to have a dead friend, let alone stage an annual memorial to honour his life. But it was on that date in 2000 that Scott hanged himself in a ravine near his home. Then 16, he'd been suffering from emotional problems—something Baxter is all too familiar with. She has spent nearly half her life battling mood swings, an obsessive-compulsive disorder and sleeplessness. In Grade 11, she was diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder—characterized by extreme mood fluctuations, depression and mania—and treated out on a round of antidepressants including Zoloft, Effexor and Remeron. "I'm lucky I'm alive," says Baxter, "but I didn't have a childhood."

She's hardly alone. According to Statistics Canada, 2.4 million Canadians say they've experienced mood depression or other mood disorders in the past year. Although these conditions are present at all ages, teens and young adults, while the least likely to report having mental ailments, have the highest rates of attempted and successful suicides.

"Many kids just don't know they're depressed," says Phil Upshall, president of the Mood Disorders Society of Canada. "They haven't been taught what to look for. All they know is that they feel numb in a sense of loss and hopelessness." The biggest hurdle to dealing with the problem? The culture of silence surrounding depression. "No

by cutting her wrist and overdosing on drugs three times, starting at age 15. Despite being under psychiatric care, she had to learn how to cope with her disorder on her own by reading medical journals and reviewing the literature. "People were scared to say I had a mental illness, for they felt it would scar me for life," says Baxter. "But if I had known when I was younger what was happening to me, I would have been able to handle myself better. It would have been easier for me to open up and say, 'Help!'"

She's now reached a healthy place. She has a college degree in broadcasting, works part-time at a TV station and hopes to become an actress. She's no longer on medication and credits her stability to her friends and room, to whom she turns when she's feeling down. "I am proud I've lived to sharing worry with others," says Baxter. "I've learned that things do get better and that depression and mental illness aren't my fate."

SUSAN HICKELLAND

THE MOVEMENT FOR MOVEMENT

WANT TO KNOW how Canada got so fat? A good place to start looking is in the elementary schoolyard as the children come running through the doors to recess. At Le Marchant St. Thomas School in Halifax, for instance, the never-ending soccer battle remains within stomach and the big, yellow play structure cranks with both. A few boys and girls sit on benches eating their snacks, but most are already on whippers.

Then you a high school—say, Cole Harbour District High some 15 km away. The only time most of the 1,500 students break a sweat on school property is during the mandatory twice-weekly physical science lessons (PALS) class, which today consists of jogging a few discus-style laps around the gym and a game of “mouster relay”—setting your running shoes down the gym floor, removing them and putting them back on before moving back on line. “Anything harder and many of these kids wouldn’t be able to do it,” comments phys. ed. teacher Daniel Dempster.

It really doesn’t matter which schools you choose. In Grade 5 rates more than 50 per cent of Nova Scotia kids got the 40 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity that the Canadian recommendation to stay fit and sane all obesity. By the time they hit Grade 11, only 12.6 per cent of males and 6.9 per cent of

females reach that minimum level. Across Canada the trend is the same—which goes a long way to explaining how obesity has become one of the most bedeviling health challenges. “Children’s caloric intake has not changed this much,” explains Peter Kain, a pediatric epidemiologist at Queen’s University in Kingston. Or “They’re simply taking in too many calories for the amount of activity they’re expending.”

A lifestyle high in movies and Game Boy and low in muscle and bone riding has resulted in a five-fold increase in Canada’s level of childhood obesity since 1981, and rising rates of high cholesterol, hypertension, Type 2 diabetes and other weight-related ailments. What’s more, the adolescents all most always become fat adults.

We’re starting to get the message. Some schools are removing junk food vending machines and banning sugary soft drinks. Communities are putting in bike paths and installing lights on long, deserted playgrounds. But it’s a battle. The late federal budget pledged \$10 million toward research into youth fitness levels—disbursements poured to the open-ended marketing budgets that a company like McDonald’s devotes

to begging its burgers and fries.

The solution starts at home. “Push your kid out the door,” says Mark Tremblay, an exercise physiologist and senior scientific advisor on the risk assessment at Statistics Canada. He thinks the best thing Canadians can do to combat rampant obesity is to

discover unstructured play—road hockey, slugging in the driveway, roughhousing with schoolmates—the way kids used to burn off calories. “Nothing is going to happen until there’s a collective will on the part of everyone to change things,” says Tremblay. “It’s not convinced we’re there yet.”

Adults, who goodness knows need the exercise too, can be role models by getting off the couch and going for a bike ride.

They can monitor their kids’ caloric intake and limit their time in front of the computer and TV screen. They can pressure politicians to make the streets and playgrounds safe enough that everyone can get out and burn some calories without buying an expensive gym membership. The one place it has had the biggest bang to get before we decide the bulk of the budget is a fight to the death?

JENN ROBERTS

GROWING PAINS

Low-income Canadians are nearly twice as likely to be obese as the rest of the population. Researchers are now finding that even if you’re fit, it’s not the same level as the rich, they get fatter.

What's life without pharmaceutical research?

Shorter.

KICKING THE HABIT

ALEXANDRA PORTER has tried to quit on three or four times, but keeps going back to what is now her de facto kingpin, half-packet-day habit. Porter quit smoking early on her summer vacation last year, but relapsed when the guy back home to Quebec City and her friends who still kept. Last month, she cut back to one or two cigarettes a day, but then things at home hit a rough patch. She craved the calming effect of the smoke generating deep into her lungs

“Smoking cigarettes for me is really relaxing,” says Porter. Sure, she knows that smoking kills—who doesn’t? “You think about it,” she says of the habit’s side, “and it affects you, but I love smoking so much.” Porter is 35 years old. She started when she was 13.

“Young girls smoke cigarettes in cars. When smoking was outlawed in Canada since 1985, the trend hasn’t held true for girls and younger women. Their cigarettes have dropped over the years, but

not as steeply as for males, and the numbers have ballooned in recent years, ballooning steadily at about 25 per cent of girls aged 15 to 19, and 30 per cent of women 20 to 24. Today, more girls than boys aged 15 to 17 smoke (19 per cent versus 17 per cent). It’s been a trend for the past five years, says Lorraine Green, executive director of the British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health. “There’s a lot to be concerned about,” she warns. “Even though these trends are new, and maybe minor, they’re alarming in that they may be a preview of things to come.”

Obvious health risks include the threat of heart disease and various cancers. But recent studies also suggest smoking may adversely affect the development of breast cells

Research-based pharmaceutical companies make the discoveries that cure disease and provide a better quality of life for Canadians. Without pharmaceutical research, the search for cures for many diseases that plague us today would cease. The threat of AIDS, SARS, and West Nile virus would be a fact of life. And for many people, life would be shorter. And more painful.

Innovation takes time and costs money. On average, it takes about 12 years and over a billion dollars to bring a single discovery to the Canadian market. The researchers and companies that invest this time and money need governments to work in partnership with them. Governments can either encourage the search for cures, or not. Government policies matter. Let’s urge governments in Canada to make the right choice to foster the search for cures. At AstraZeneca, that’s our commitment to healthcare.

during adolescence, says Groves, which in turn may set up women for breast cancer.

While the anti-smoking message spreads, there are myriad explanations for why it seems less effective on young women. They may be more inclined than males their age to respond to sales pitches from the tobacco industry, says Paul McDonald, professor of health studies at Ontario's University of Waterloo. Or, as more young women find jobs, they're no longer so tied to low-income parents as they once were. It might be the stress of career development: Smoking contributes to a young woman's identity formation, adds Groves, including "using it as a way to resist dominant culture and domination, and as a way to look like rebels." Smoking, in fact, can be an indicator of other risk behavior. "We know that girls who smoke," says Groves, "are more likely to be sexually active and drink; they're more likely to do a whole lot of things that are not 'fitting' in the teen schedule."

Upping the challenge to health officials, new research cautions that the nation's leading adolescent at-risk group is steadily above the national average.

Uping the challenge to health officials, new research cautions that the nation's leading adolescent at-risk group is steadily above the national average.

look maybe a year or two. "But no," warns Groves. "These, I think, were misleading assumptions." It is now thought that a cigarette addiction can be formed in one week, maybe less.

On top of that, quitting is more difficult for women than men. At all ages, women seem to be more sensitive to nicotine and acquire less of a dose, says McDonald. They are more prone to depression after they quit, and are likely to report a greater number of—and more severe—withdrawal symptoms.

Former mental modeling when she arrived at Saint Patrick's High School. "I just started taking pills," she recalls. "I started smoking because everyone did it—I thought it was everyone's drug." She can tell you cigarettes cause lung cancer, that second-hand smoke causes cancer in others, and an acid on. "When I hear about all these diseases," says Fortin, "I'm like, 'Well, everyone's going to die someday.'" Sadly, some smokers then others. **DAVID HARRIS/STRA**



CUT THE WAIT TIMES

THOMAS WENT WELL the first time, when she underwent hip surgery during a trip to Arizona and Rio Ochoa's health care. When she returned home, she was referred to an orthopedic surgeon, who was able to examine her less than two weeks later. The specialist told Ochoa, another surgery and surgery, that her right hip needed to be replaced. So we're back, it was done. The whole thing, from start to finish, took less than two months. "It was like—wow!" recalls Ochoa, now 66. "Done—here's that hip that ever happened."

That was 1999. Today, Ochoa's other hip needs work. She's looking at a punishing 18-month ordeal—at best. Long waiting times that ever happened?

senior-based Fraser Institute last month, there was a backlog of 130,000 Canadians ended up for hip or knee replacements and other orthopedic procedures last year, up 21 per cent from 2000. Patients wait an average of eight months for their operations, adds Dr. Robert Hallinckel, president of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association. "Obviously, some wait would be shorter than that," he says, "but there are certainly many in the one- to two-year range."

In a poll of association members, almost 90 per cent of respondents said orthopedic surgery should be performed within three months of a diagnosis. That's because delays can worsen outcomes. But over 70 per cent

said wait times are well outside that time frame. "It's frustrating, often, taking a long time to get to the point of surgery," notes Dr. James Waddell, professor of orthopaedic

It takes as if Ochoa will have to wait the same for her hip surgery. 18 months

GETTING TO THE heart of the matter

ADVERTISEMENT

What risk factors contribute to heart disease?

We know that certain factors will increase your risk of cardiovascular disease. You have a higher chance of developing heart disease if you:

- are a man over 40
- are a woman over 50
- have close family members (such as parents or siblings) with heart disease
- have had a previous cardiac event, such as a heart attack or stroke

There are risk factors that you cannot change. There is nothing that you can do about your age, family history or personal health history.

However, you are also at higher risk if you:

- have abnormal levels of cholesterol in your blood
- have high blood pressure
- have diabetes
- are a smoker
- are overweight
- do not exercise regularly
- experience a lot of stress

There are risk factors that you can change to reduce your risk of heart disease.

The more risk factors you have, the higher your chance of developing heart disease. Therefore, it is extremely important to try to reduce those risk factors that you can control, such as your weight, your level of physical activity, your blood pressure and your cholesterol levels.

Where do I start if I want to reduce my risk of heart disease?

Start by trying to alter your lifestyle in positive ways – stop smoking, maintain an appropriate body weight, eat a healthy diet, make sure you get regular exercise, and learn to manage the stress in your life. These lifestyle changes also help to prevent or manage other cardiovascular risk factors, such as abnormal cholesterol levels, high blood pressure and diabetes.

It is important to know that for some individuals, changes in lifestyle alone will not be enough to adequately reduce your risk of

heart disease. In some instances, medication may have to be added to healthy lifestyle changes to more effectively manage abnormal cholesterol levels, high blood pressure or diabetes.

I have a family history of heart disease – should I do anything different?

Your family history puts you at higher risk of developing heart disease, particularly if an immediate family member (a parent or sibling) has developed heart disease before age 55 in males or age 65 in females. If you have this type of family history, it is very important that you have your risk of heart disease assessed. The sooner you identify your risk factors and the sooner you act to lower them, the sooner your risk level will decrease.

I have been told by my doctor that I have diabetes – should I do anything different?

Yes. Talk to your doctor as soon as possible about your risk of heart disease. People over the age of 50 who have diabetes are classified in Canadian guidelines as being at "very high risk" of heart disease, even if they have no other risk factors. If they also have high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels or other risk factors, their risk of heart disease becomes even higher. If you have diabetes, it is very important that you keep your blood sugar well controlled and minimize your risk of heart disease by controlling, as much as possible, the other cardiovascular risk factors in your life.

What if you have already had a heart attack? Is it too late to do anything about your cholesterol levels?

Not at all. People who have had a heart attack or who already have heart disease are at higher risk of developing further heart problems. However, many different studies have shown that individuals who significantly decrease their risk of further heart disease and therefore their lives by reducing their cholesterol levels. This appears to be true even if their cholesterol levels are in the "worst" range. If you have been diagnosed with heart disease, assessment and management of your cholesterol is an important part of your treatment. In some individuals, cholesterol medication may be necessary.



Lo Harkin,
40 years old
Co-Chair Canadian Lipid
Nurse Network



surgery at the University of Toronto, "and all of those medications have some side effects, which can be significant."

Caring wait times would make a profound difference to the many Canadian patients and their families who struggle with protected pain. But Ottawa says the province has found themselves in a bind because of federal reductions in medical school enrolment, cost cuts that removed hospital beds, and a shortage of surgeons in small urban centres. Meanwhile, the demand for services is overwhelming. A report co-sponsored by the Arthritis Society shows lesions now get replaced in Canada at the rate of 68 per 100,000 population, a 36 per cent increase in six years. At a rate of 47 per 100,000, hip replacements are up 10 per cent. Still, that doesn't do the job. "Special initiatives aimed at expanding the use of hip and knee replacements in various provinces have had partial success in increasing availability," says the report. "Nevertheless, long waiting times and uneven need stand as proof that the current level of access does not match demand."

Hollnbeck wants benchmarks to set to define maximum wait times. The nation has well-placed proponents, including Michael Deane, chairman of the Canadian Institute for Health Information and a leading consultant to the federal government. He says the system would pair collapse under too much weight, says Deane. "On the other hand, I think a maximum wait time for the major procedures—knee and hip replacements, coronary, heart surgery and some of the diagnostics—is a pretty practical idea."

Olson's left hip flared up in April. One surgeon told her she could see her in a year. She saw another in the summer, but he couldn't tell her when he'd be able to operate. She's now been able to squeeze in an appointment at the end of this month with her first specialist, but he may not be able to operate for 18 months. Meanwhile, Olson pushes herself around her kitchen in a wheeled office chair. She uses a cane outside, and sometimes a walker equipped with rollers. She pops painkillers, but they con-

WAIT HERE
The Fraser Institute, which has tracked health-care waiting times since 2008, says that, Canada-wide, they've grown on average by 27 per cent between 1981 and 2002.

stitute her and she worries what they'll do to her liver and kidneys. Olson accepts that millions of dollars and priority attention must go to aid patients with life-threatening diseases. "I know that, but damn it, we're forced to suffer, and lose all quality of life for two or three years," says Olson, a cash in her voice. "It's ridiculous."

BARTUD KAWALSHAWA

SURGERY FOR SALE?

WHAT WILL IT TAKE to reduce the lengthy waits patients now endure for orthopaedic surgeries? Political will, many say. What is why some hopes rest on a potentially influential legal case to be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada in March. The public attention generated could help lay the ground work for the kind of national consensus needed to bring substantial reforms to health-care delivery.

Known as the Chaboud case, it takes its name from Montreal physician Jacques Chaboud, whose patient, George Zeller, waited about a year for hip replacement surgery he had in 1997. Now the two argue that a patient should be allowed to pay for

an operation, or buy health insurance, to ensure speedy treatment. Excessive waits, they maintain, contravene the right to life, liberty and security as set out by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. (Similar arguments have failed to impress two lower courts in Quebec.)

While supporting publicly funded health care, Dr. Robert Hollnbeck, president of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association, hopes the case sets debate. The legal case, he says, "may well end up being the health-care case of the decade in Canada in terms of, at the very least, bringing attention to the plight of people who are waiting as long as waiting lists for care." □

8

times as many women die from heart disease.

Something to think about on your next breast cancer run.

Between juggling child care responsibilities, caring for elderly relatives, and work-life and outside the home—it's no wonder that women often place their own health down their list of priorities.

That often includes ignoring their risk of heart disease and stroke, including their own family history of these conditions, says the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

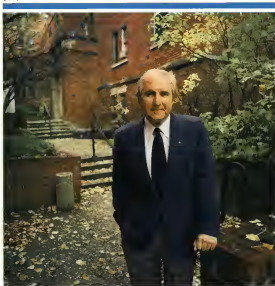
Understanding your risk factor profile is vital—ask your doctor about the best ways to manage your risk at your next appointment. Be aware of the signs and symptoms of heart disease and stroke. According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, many women disregard signs such as angina (a squeezing feeling in the chest), putting them at even greater risk. If you have been diagnosed with heart disease, review your treatment options.

By managing their risks and watching out for warning signs, women can play an active role in preventing heart disease and stroke.

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leadership role to effect change quickly.

Just the establishment of a national health council won't in itself bring improvement overnight.

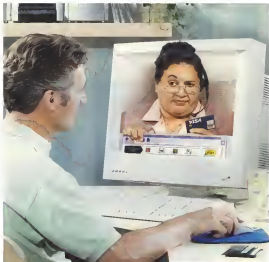
No, but consider two important things. It would be a demonstration to Canadians that all the participants are prepared to co-operate and put a little sweat in their work. Plus, it would greatly improve the current system, which is long distance hollering.

Do you think the delay is because of the

interregnum in Ottawa, and the distraction of eight provincial elections this year?

That's one possible explanation. Even when I told his report on health care for Mike Prue in 1994, and it took a full seven years before it was implemented nationwide. But now I worry that time may be the enemy. The nature of the delivery of health care has changed dramatically since then: less bed referrals. At that time, health care was basically thought to be hospitals and doctors. In fact, those are still the only things covered under our publicly financed system. Today,

there is such a proliferation of new technologies, it's like the age of biology and new medications and pharmaceuticals, the Internet, globalization, travel—as we see with the SARS outbreak—and the like. Canadians have gone through a decade of sustained cuts to health care. They've put up with long waiting lists, long delays, and no referrals—and they're still going to work, still hoping the p's going to be solved. First of all, point, they're going to ask, "Well, what's the scope?" And then the public health program will be very much in jeopardy. □



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HEALTHY PROFITS

Booming exports are driving the fortunes of organic food manufacturers

IT'S NOT surprising Arnes Nourse got into the organic food business. His father runs an organic berry farm in Vancouver Island. In 1967 and 1971, respectively, Stephens opened one of Canada's first vegetarian restaurants and launched one of North America's original natural food shops, called LifeSaver. By 1977, he was making organic juices, energy bars, juices and other prepared foods sold in his restaurant and store.

"Back then, there were no info or any products around," says Stephens, 59. "We had to make them ourselves."

Stephens is now involved with the restaurant and store, but he's still in the business. Nourse's Path, which he launched in 1985, produces organic cereals, waffles and granola bars and successfully competes against the multinational food companies that are now getting into organics. Nourse's Path has grown by about 25 percent a year, and with sales of more than \$66 million in 2002, it's the country's biggest organic food manufacturer. That growth should continue.

Nourse's Path controls more than 26 percent of the U.S. organic and natural breakfast cereal market, and demand is skyrocketing. "I once was asked how a pipework company like mine could ever compete against the giant cereal producers," says Stephens. "I responded with, 'I've never heard of David and Goliath.' In my case, David has a product the public wants."



Nourse is expanding to 50 outlets—again.

summer resistance to produce that is genetically modified or grown with the use of pesticides. Since 1989, sales of organic foods in Canada have grown by about 20 percent a year, and there's room for improvement: they represent less than five per cent—or about \$1.2 billion—of the estimated \$64 billion Canadians spent on groceries in 2002.

The world's five Canadian companies have come from export. "There's a lot of confusion in the marketplace about how the major food companies are producing their products," says Debra Boyle, president of Pro Organic, Canada's largest organic food distributor. "That makes organic food very attractive." Thanks to its abundance of high-

quality and comparatively inexpensive organic wheat—grown without the usual pesticides, artificial fertilizers and biotechnological engineering—whole-brand products comprise the biggest category of Canadian exports.

Shelflife Bread Co. in Toronto, for instance, was founded in 1999 by Susan Nourse, a former party chef. Working out of cramped, rented quarters, he sold small batches of organic sourdough products and, later, ginger cookies. Nourse had no marketing budget and only a vague business plan, but his tiny bread won an instant hit within eight weeks. He moved his operation to a 750-sq.-m. plant in Etobicoke, Ont., and now he's expanding to 18 huge outlets from U.S. specialty stores. The company grossed more than \$2 million in 2002, and with the expanded sales into the U.S., Nourse is confidently forecasting faster expansion year. He claims, however, that his facilities are

not a merely adequate product. "I am not blind to the opportunities," he says. "My purpose, though, isn't to make use of sales. It's to make the best bread possible."

Philanthropy is something of an industry trait. Nourse annually gives more than \$100,000 worth of his bread to food banks and charities. And at Nourse's Path, Stephens donates one per cent of revenues from his EnvisioBite cereal line to charitable organizations. Those initiatives fit with the producers' belief that their products serve a broader good. "Organic means less pesticides on our soil and water," says Stephens. "I would love to use 10 per cent of our annual output to be organic—then the movement would really start to snowball." And, by extension, sales would really climb, too. ■

Shattered City

The Halifax Explosion

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Part 1: Sunday, October 26 at 8pm / 8:30 NT
Part 2: Monday, October 27 at 8pm / 8:30 NT



'RIGHT TECHNOLOGY, RIGHT TIME'

A tech entrepreneur is betting he can make magic at Mitel one more time



TERRY MATTHEWS, one of Canada's most successful technology entrepreneurs, made his first serious foray into tech in 1972 when he founded Mitel Corp., with Michael Cowpland, another early industry leader. At the height of the Tandy-Telco phone war, they rejected old-fashioned internal telephone systems used by businesses around the world and sophisticated nationwide networks. After racking millions, the pair sold the company. Matthews then created Newbridge Networks Corp., another telecom equipment business story. When it was sold in 2000 (against Matthews' wishes), he made his return. Two years ago, Matthews bought back Mitel to focus on: again, phone, this time ones that operate over the Internet and that are connected to e-mail systems, hard-hold digital organizers, and other wide-area networks. Matthews, 60, now chairs of Ottawa

based Mitel Networks Corp., but will split with Maclean's National Business Correspondent Katherine Mackinnon.

What did you learn from your first go-round with Mitel?

In 1970-72, Mitel was first out with the first entrepreneur-created private automatic branch exchange. The company was from no-market share to 20 per cent of the piece in five years. Got the idea? No countries in 90 countries, from \$3 a share to \$600 a share. That's what happens when you have the right technology at the right time—when there's a technology change occurring.

I take it you want to do the same thing now.

I always keep my eye out for a way of replacement. That's a much better business than trying to establish some new, shiny

electronic thing when there's none out there and you're trying to persuade people that they ought to buy it. Replacing the stuff that's already out there, that's a much bigger business.

How do you know that you're planning to replace the last replacement you put in place?

That's correct. But you have to get the cost, say right, because if you're not as somebody else will start replacing your stuff.

How is your timing now?

Perfect. If I take a look at the recent environment, we faced a continuing recession that was ugly and a technology bubble that burst. I stayed on track, and spent new R&D money of \$300 million developing what now runs over the Internet product line. Now I'm pleased I did, because the replacement wave has started.

That said, Mitel has been losing money over the past two years.

If you increase R&D spending it can only continue to increase on the bottom line.

Are there losses making you lose sleep?

No, because either you develop the new technology or you don't. And if you don't, you have no future.

When will these plans be in most effect?

I would say within the next five years you'll have seen a very substantial transition.

What about at home?

Over the next five years, you'll get perhaps 30 per cent penetration, because the advantages are many. One is that there's essentially no cost for long-distance calls.

Do you plan to take listed public?

I like to see employees share in the growth of the company. That means generous stock options plans, with an eventual move to make the stock liquid through a public offering. I don't think you'll see a change in the way I grow businesses.

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BURIED TREASURES

Mining stocks outperformed all others in the third quarter

YES, AS my e-mail often note, this column consistently promotes the wisdom of investing in commodity-oriented stocks. Companies producing metals, oil and gas are grouped, while those producing the grains of the so-called "New Economy" are pariahs. This, year after year, Nasdaq has been on a tear, leaping 46 per cent. So why this focus on those who extend so-called bullfrenzy for millions of years, compared with those who produce stuff in mere years?

"Shouldn't I just not get it? Am I just trying to copy what I wrote in my book about

the Triple Waterfall crash of technology stocks?" I gladly go to bed at the home of my friends. But I'm not alone. I'm alone. The Triple Waterfall crash of technology stocks? I gladly go to bed at the home of my friends. But I'm not alone. I'm alone. The Triple Waterfall crash of technology stocks? I gladly go to bed at the home of my friends. But I'm not alone. I'm alone.

Meanwhile, products that had their own Triple Waterfall crashes in the 1980s and 1990s are coming back. Big time. Oil and gas prices are low, drawing capital away from them. Gold. Now it's the real estate, copper, nickel, aluminum, lead and zinc.

What the Wall Street Journal published in its fall issue is a review of stock market performance in the third quarter, it included in the Nasdaq returns from tech stocks. Way back in the section was a small chart that recorded the actual performance of all sectors in the U.S. market. The top-performing group, up a mere 43.4 per cent, was mining stocks. They collectively rose more in the quarter than Nasdaq had managed for the year to date. But this splendid score drew more money from the Journal's sub-headers and drew publishing over the glorious stock (No surprise: The Journal showed my book).

What has quietly been happening is that, after two decades in which most supplies routinely exceeded demand, supply and demand came into balance. Nickel is now in commodity short supply, in part because of

the sharpness of the United States' demand of America's union. Having learned the lessons of supply and demand, it shut down nickel's primary operations for the winter. Fishing and camping season and came back to skyrocketing nickel prices. (High prices should increase in fact, but that nickel demand, fueled by China, will outpace supply for the next few years.)

The Journal remains the most authoritative financial paper in the world, the one indispensable read for serious investors. That even this august publication failed to note the change in fundamentals for the metals does not mean industry is part of the continuing decline that two decades of mining misery have ended.

The modern decade for the metal mine

Meanwhile, mining companies kept expanding and kept opening new mines across the world. The more successful they were at their businesses—creating supply—the more they drove down prices of their products for their customers who built cars, machines and heavy equipment. Today, there are more cars than driven in the U.S. Metal demand won't be as high as U.S. GDP growth at the high end of the more enthusiastic consumer project.

So what is changing for the better? What lies ahead is two decades of fast-growing metal demand from the gigantic new middle class emerging in southern and eastern Asia. By some estimates, there are already 350 million people in these regions who have family incomes approximating those of their counterparts in Portugal and northern Italy—two of the poorer regions of the European Union. By the end of the decade, that number should exceed 500 million, and their average incomes will be heading increasingly toward those of Continental Europe. An oil company executive recently told me that within a decade, when

residents of the coastal cities in China have the same number of cars per capita as South Korea, their oil consumption will require two new Saudi Arabias. Long before then, they will have generated metal demand that will, like the U.S., turn basic metal mines into gold.

Somebody's investment source. Last week's *Baron's* (a sister investment publication to the Wall Street Journal) has an article detailing how leading pension funds are investing directly in commodities. Among those profiting handsomely is the U.S. Central Pension Plan Board (a conspicuously well-managed fund). From the razor-thin dip in the stock, things are looking up. □

Donald Coxie is chairman of Inter Investment Management in Chicago and of Global Fund Asset Management in London. dcoxie@interco.com



The Medical POSTING



Canada faces an epidemic of childhood obesity

A second number of Canadian children are overweight—and facing an unhealthy future, experts warn.

Currently about 46 per cent of Canadian adults are obese, but when these adults were children, only five to six per cent of people were overweight. Now, it is estimated between 15 and 30 per cent of children are overweight—and these children are at risk of developing health problems such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

Their quality of life also suffers. A recent study found the quality of life of these children is similar to those diagnosed with cancer. Both groups miss about four times as much school as other kids and have similar psychiatric issues.



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Saving children from obesity can happen one at a time, but that won't reverse the trend. To do that, one researcher says, change needs to happen broadly, in many different levels: hospitals, media, schools, governments, homes, neighbourhoods, morning, urban design, work sites, social support groups and local authorities.

Surgery for sleep apnea

Surgery to remove excess tissue at the back of the throat may improve the survival odds of people who periodically stop breathing during sleep.

This condition—known as obstructive sleep apnea—can lead to complications such as high blood pressure, heart failure and abnormal heart rhythms.

It is often treated with continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), a form of mechanical breathing assistance.

For people who have trouble sticking with CPAP over the long term, surgery may be a better option, according to Seattle researchers.

A team at the University of Washington compared the survival rates of sleep apnea patients who received one of two treatments—CPAP or the most

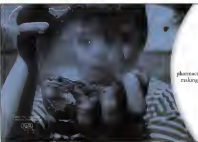
FYI

In Canada, 35 per cent of boys and 29 per cent of girls are overweight. About 17 per cent of boys and 15 per cent of girls are considered obese.

(Source: Canadian Diabetes Society)

common form of sleep apnea surgery, which has the unique-sounding name of mandibular advancement surgery (MAD). UPPF involves the removal of excess tissue at the back of the throat that may block the flow of air during sleep.

During the study period, a slightly greater percentage of CPAP patients died—11 per cent versus 10 per cent of UPPF patients. After adjusting for factors such as age and other diseases, however, his colleagues calculated that CPAP patients still had a greater risk of dying than the UPPF patients.



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THE LOST KINGDOM

Myths and history enliven Tadoussac on the Saguenay

HALFWAY ACROSS THE SAGUENAY RIVER, the landscape simply... disappears. Past one shore and then the other, disappearing into the mist, like whales in a fog.

At the river's mouth, great curious Gulls. Here, where the deep-ranching Saguenay emerges into the St. Lawrence, the river's water is pulled up and over the middle-belly depths, creating layers of liquid strata: summer freshwater currents above, the deeper salt water below. It is an idea breeding ground for fog. And whales. The waters are rich in plankton and kelp, which attracts the whales, which in turn attract the tourists. It's the chain of

life and we are part of it, an holed-a fuzzy grapplegate way to the other shore.

There are three of us: my brother, Sean, his eight-year-old daughter, Aislin, and me. We have come in search of a lost kingdom, Canada's seventh decade. *Saguenay de Saguenay*. We have followed the St. Lawrence north from Montreal. Sean drives and I navigate, while Aislin hunkers down in the back seat like a particularly anxious hibernator, a nest of books, pillows, blankets and snuggly wrapped around her.

Sean has been in Montreal forever, all three of his children were born in Quebec; he speaks French fluently and he works deep within the Francophone music community, which makes me wary. I am always watching him for signs of doublethink syndrome, but no. He has not transferred into a sinister separatist culting a litany of humiliations and historical grievances, nor has he become the other kind of extreme, the Angry Anglo, endlessly capering about in innuendo and French condescension as though he were living under a British regime.

On the drive up, I make the mistake of commenting on the recent debate of the *Saguenay* debate. "Nice to have that particular left taken away from our necks," I say to Sean.

"It's just a fall," he replies. "That's all. The separatist movement will never die, so you had better get used to it and try to make sense of it."

"Understand it?" I say, scoffing at the very notion. How can one ever hope to understand something that is so fundamentally invisible?

"Invisible?" says Sean. "Of course it's invisible. *It's invisible*. That's invisible."

But I refuse to budge. "Which is why you will never really understand Quebec," he says. "You know your history—but you don't understand the heart of the matter."

He may very well be right, but I will be damned if I let outside forces grovelously "steal" my moment.

"Bad luck," he replies, with a grin. "Are you fighting?" asks Aislin from the back seat.

"Not fighting," I say, secretly "just discussing why your father is wrong."

THE FORCE OF THE PAST

History surrounds us. History defines us, and nowhere is this truer than in Quebec. We breathe it in, as wet as mist, as heavy as fog. We take our way to Tadoussac—the oldest community in mainland Canada and gateway to the mythical Kingdom of Saguenay. The kingdom started out as a tall tale, one spun by kidnapped native guides for a nosy and grasping Jacques Cartier.

Cartier was the first European to explore the St. Lawrence. He came in 1535, searching for a passage to the Orient. Which is to say, Canada began as an obstacle, a road block in the way to somewhere else.

The Kingdom of Saguenay was an ironic-sounding name, a mysterious fabled land, rich in gold and copper and rubies, and ripe for plunder. Cartier and his men seemed destined to become northern conquerors, but as they wandered among the St. Lawrence Indians, they saw that Native boys told great tales and more fanciful. There were other lands as well, you see. There was one where people didn't have any axes and another where the native population was one-legged. Cartier dutifully recorded all of this in his journals and—using elaborate punctuation—decided that at least the Kingdom of Saguenay was real.

It wasn't, though some historians have suggested that the legends may have been referring to the copper deposits of Lake

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Supper. No matter. Carter never found his passage to the Far East or his long-lost Andalusian "gold" and "diamonds" he brought back to France turned out to be Raï's gold, quartz and pyrite, mainly. In France, the incense goes forth to the cognate "Sous le vent du diamant de Cracovia".

Carter initially identified the Saguenay River as the route to the mythical kingdom, but later located the realm farther west, near the Ottawa River, always taking it out of reach, always a horizon away: a golden apple that was forever just beyond one's grasp.

But Saguenay's output was rich—very rich. Rat was its subject or gold. The river was a seasonal furnace in the northern fur trade, flowing as it did into the St. Lawrence, and long before Europeans ever arrived, Native trade routes had been established along these waterways. Even Indians were

Nor man whalers were already using Tadoussac as a stopping point when Pierre Chénier & Vermeire, a captain with French merchant marine, was granted a monopoly on the fur trade in 1599. The following year he built a small outpost at Tadoussac, the first such trading post in Canada.

FLIES, CHURCH AND TOURISM

When the three of us arrive in Delouane, the village is shrouded in mist and we walk through tunnels defined as busy offices and dismantled spaces. The St. Lawrence can be heard, it can be smelled—it can be tasted, even—but it cannot be seen that day. The great river lies hidden in a wet grey autumn cloud bank.

Not far from the shore, the red-roofed steeple of the Indian Chapel rises up, a milky watercolour in the mist. Built in 1767, it is the oldest log chapel in Canada. From it, we follow a boardwalk past the Hotel Tadoussac, proudly as the flag, down to the wooden pilonades of Chateau de la reine (the queen's moat).



WE HAVE fought our way past hairpin turns, foul-smelling smelters, dangerously distracting scenery and artery-clogging poutine just to get here.

at fact. Chavarr's trading post and the Jesuit missions aside, the present community really only dates from the 1840s, when a series of sawmills was built in the region. Attracted by the sawery, tourists followed in the 1860s with hotels and cruise ships catering to the newly created leisure classes. In doing, some of the town's businesses (Tadousac was originally built as a summer villa). Fleisher Hoxac, Bailey, O'Neil, Taché Hart, even Fergouse (though no reference, also).

The French names attached to these a little less elegant houses are misleading, for this was—and in many ways still is—the playground of Anglo elites. When Lord Dufferin, the governor general of Canada, chose Tadoussac as the vacation summer residence in 1872, the village's vaupre was 300 (see p. 34). Even today, the anglophone residents form their own to meet social use, a village within a village whose most visible sign is Anglican chapel. An Anglo Protestant church is on the heart of a French-Canada village: it's a symbol for some thing, but it's not what it is.

APPENDIX 1: THE STUDY SAMPLE

The following day, when the weather cleared, we made a trip across the sandy plains and wood sage dunes of Mosier-Bande, where blood cliffs slide down into the green blue waters of the St. Lawrence. This was the day

of the original village, and it once supported
oil farms and fields and a thriving lumber mill.
But the lumber lords systematically cut down
every tall tree, the soil eroded and the farms
disappeared.

The road dunes of *Helianthus* are easy enough to walk down. You simply let gravity and one magnetic combfile you along, instead of most sliding before you with every step. Coming back upward, hands on knees pushing against plant ground, steps half making it's like trying to run in deep snow. It's like trying to swim against a current.

From Tafoussat, we drove inland along the southern shore of the Saguenay, across the worn serrated edge of steep cliffs and down through sudden valleys. The lower Saguenay is classified not as a river, but as a fjord: a saltwater cleft between three mountainides, with waters that are 275 m deep in places and reach 600 m on steeper sides.

We start the two highest of Cape Trinity and Cape Eternity—the unfathomable and the unimaginable—which can their heady names with sheer 100 m drops. (I apologize for throwing those numbers at you, but the Saguenay demand it; it's a region defined in superlatives.)

THE LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

Autumn is in the air, and the road threads its way through villages that are blurring in the cold fire of fall colours, past rolling hills of glowing gold and smouldering red. The Saguenay River is one of Quebec's main industrial engines, and we pass the metallic overland buildings and phase-sparking smokestacks of pulp mills and aluminium smelters that are welded in among the trees.

And then, on the north shore of Chocoma, we find it: Perched on an outcrop of rock, defiant, heroic, alone, the Little White House. "It looks like a castle," says Aislin, as she—there is no other word for it—scrambles about, leaping from rock to rock.

In the summer of 1996, the Saguenay boiled over in a charming flash flood. The current swept through the valley. Rivers burst through dikes and razed levees. Buildings were torn away, entire villages were cut off from the outside. Almost 500 homes were destroyed. But not the Little White House of Chénoué. As the water

ings around it all, this modest little house somehow survived, alone against the deluge, even as raging floodwaters crashed against it. By the time the floodwaters receded, the house had become iconic, and it is now preserved as the centrepiece of a city park.

We spend a night and a day in Châteauguay and then go deeper afield, toward the headwaters of the river and Quebec's "in-

land sea," Lac St-Jean. If the Quebec separatist movement has a heart (it certainly doesn't have a head), then we are in it. The Saguenay is the central circulatory system and Lac St-Jean is the main pulmonary made of the parchment. It is a beautiful place, understated after the vistas and mountains of the lower Saguenay, but beautiful nonetheless. The lake lies pooled in a shallow gla-

cial pan, calm and unassuming. Low among the hills and firs, Lac St-Jean is like a watery continuation of the fields themselves, a mirror. At dusk, the lights of several small towns shimmer along the shore. It hardly feels like a landscape of thought, like snowdrifts in a fairy tale, we have fought our way past obstacles—halogen turns, frost-smelling smelters, dangerously charming, somber and eerie-sloping, postcard-just-to-get-here.

Our journey ends in the ghost town of Val-Jalbert. Founded in 1901, it was a planned community, very modern in its day, and prosperous. At one point, the population reached 1,000. But Val-Jalbert was a company town, and in 1927 the pulp mill closed. The houses were abandoned, and the people simply disappeared.

Today, the houses, laid out in tidy rows not far from the high banks of a waterfall, sit silently as tombstones. They are collaging inward in a slow-motion study of decay. Some of the houses are fading, many are sway-backed and tottering, others have no windows completely to the top and grow. Second floors have fallen into first floors, and stone facades have toppled. But the grass is trimmed and the paths are well-maintained. "Well-maintained ruins"—a contradiction, perhaps, but an accurate description of Val-Jalbert.

The night descends in layers of blue, and a stark tranquillity has settled upon this empty village. We have arrived at the end of the season and the end of the day, and there is none else around. It has been a good trip, even if the magical Kingdom of Saguenay has faded us. Even if our debate on Quebec nationalism has ended in a stalemate.

Aiden runs ahead, trailing fog like a white ghost, and I follow her down the hill, past the empty empty houses of Val-Jalbert. And Sean runs to me and says, "Hate you go, Will. Two laughs for the price of one. The Little White House, alone against the deluge?" Thank him the Quebecers see themselves. And Val-Jalbert? His gestures to the tidy yards and crumbling abandoned homes "This is what they fear."

And like a tumbler turning on a lock, it all starts to make sense....

Will Ferguson is the award-winning author of several books and Canadian magazines. Working the national beat for the *Canadianist* for 10 years, he is now a freelance writer. For more on Ferguson, visit his site at willferguson.ca.

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BOOMERS HAVE IT TOUGH, TOO

Sheer numbers give them clout, but they competed for everything they have

FOHAD my suspicions for a while, but that sunny late day in HMV (is when I knew for sure). At first, I thought the cubber had a goodie look a bit too because I was paying into something I'd never been before—cash. But no, he was trying, none too successfully, to suggest a margin at my purchase, the rapper's 1 CD. Suddenly I saw myself through his Gen-X eyes: just one more aging boomer crawling for the music of her youth (And, I might add, naming it was a mistake but, just as we had with the Beatles' music we loved five years ago). So there it was in a nutshell, after seeing the public agenda for the last half-century, the new national Canadian boomers: between 1946 and 1965—not to mention some 10 million American boomers—are now some-

how visible. Our interests and passions, as one young writer of my acquaintance puts it, are "intentionally lame." Our music? Gutter Rock. Tapes, please, mystery, Viagra? Political activism? trying to maintain our illusory youth.

No doubt about it, none of the Xers' best is left. But others moved like the whirling of a little ball outside from the big kids' clubhouse. Even before my encounter in the music store, my friends and I had commented on how close Gen Xers and Millennials are to some apocalyptic scenario's end. First those who have graduated to work, alienated contractors, job-seekers aggrieved in other ways. The boomers, the Xers, and Millennials, get everywhere first, and have been sucking up all the resources ever since. We did so with the goodie, and are going to

do it with the pension money as well. And we make them listen to our music!

OK, so maybe it is a new deal to be told by the largest cohort in Canadian history. But let me tell you, it isn't always been easy, or fun, being in the middle of it either. When we were kids, we played in elementary schoolyards that anybody could build them. Many kids had to learn their ABCs in hastily constructed, aluminum-sided portable classrooms we called "chick-o-coops." Pretty self-explanatory. But most of us, we waited. In the schoolyard. As the teacher took attendance. And the worst, at least for a W in an alphabetically ordered classroom, for misbehaviour.

And so it's been as away as it was. And at the University of Toronto, there were some

crude forms the expression "don't track anyone over 30," but, in fact, the truth is many of us respected our parents' generation. They had fought in the Second World War, and when they said we owed them, darnit, we believed them. We even kept electing them to public office long past their best before dates. A half past behind them came a generation so small it doesn't seem to have warranted its own label. Children or sons during the war, they entered a workforce with little competition. So little, in fact, that Toronto's economist David Four notes in his seminal book, *First and Last*, that anyone who had a public could get ahead. They did. And there many of them still do.

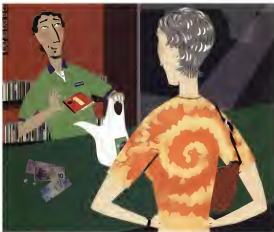
So sure, boomers have had the numbers to set the social agenda, from rock 'n' roll to the women's movement. And we've been a mother's witness, making instant best-sellers out of everything that caught our collective fancy, from *Thelma & Louise* to *Twilight* to *It's a Wonderful Life*. But it makes me we've never really walked power in the way

our parents would want. Certainly not in politics. American boomers' electoral first president, Bill Clinton, only in 1993. In Canada, we've yet to have a boomer prime minister—and likely never will (Rene Charbonneau's tenure was too brief and inflexible to really count.) The Canadian Minister Stephen Harper might be a boomer, but he's likely never to be PM. Meanwhile, with Paul Martin, 65, set to assume leadership of the national governing party, boomers like Anna Tobias, Allan Rock and John Munro appear to have given up on ever getting the

I'M SURE many of us will take the advice that Welsh poet Dylan Thomas once gave his father, and "sing, rage against the dying of the light"

200 plus students in my first-year psychology class. (We wouldn't have so much about overworking adults and the boomers' kids, the so-called who generation, started working their way through the school system.) When boomers reached middle home-buying age, home prices reached nightmarish heights. And always, whatever anyone's as thought, debt or bribe, we've been thought, or bought by millions of others. So much for being original or unique or special.

Boomers too have had to wait their turn in the generational pipeline. We may have



top jobs. Probably with good reason. By the time Martin comes to the Liberts to help to present a more youthful face in the world. And, as it seems, once the cashflow is no longer care about us. Despite the aging population, companies will spend more on their marketing and advertising budgets over the young. One study that sweet indulgence of the industry—with the charming tale "It's in getting old"—claimed that consumers' spending habits are centered by age 35. So, if we're not really looking, why look or advertising to them? Martin has looking at age 35 and is based to see the answer. The "non-buy" concept of the Liberts that both are purchased and are a "disincentive" in "retroactive" and why not? While long game, "house and car" and, under shoppers like the time and resources to develop there. It's a trend that's based on research. Always, make a

Why about half of all new cars, up from the top of the line. Hell, the makers say a Harley-Davidson buyer gets it at 47.

Besides, it's hard to believe businessmen put up for long with being victims of the youth culture we created in the first place. We're healthier and wealthier than any generation in history, and likely to stay so well into our senior years. We refuse to let changes in retirement policies, welfare to be worsened in old age, inflation, and demand respond. There are, in fact, always signs that at least one of us is marching. And smarter companies are marching in cash on E-Trade.

But the fact that Congress has passed the bill that "defends" the family is not the same. Women—and agreed with her husband she will not be surprised. She calls it "third age. Ford has crossed what it calls its "third age."

"The music makes the women's pants suffer, wear thicker and even include an

glac to simulate various II, to help us designers (usually under 40) understand the needs of older drivers.

Elsewhere, academics are starting to look into what might be happening when business begins resting on its laurels. Look like we'll be leaving a pretty big hole when we take all our skills and intellectual capital with us. One industry study, for instance, *Bringing the Where into Flow*, estimated the projected loss of 64,000 registered nurses by 2036. The report warned of a "health system catastrophe" as Canada if steps aren't taken to try to train at least 15,000 of those expected vacancies.

The boomer generation made "senior" a dirty word. It's in our own best interest to do the same for "ageism." I've seen many of us roll back the wheelbarrow the poet Dylan Thomas once gave his father, and "Fage, age against the dawn of the baby!"

10



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Waterover

'The name leapt off the glass'

Margaret Macdonell, 49, is a designer and instructor in the history of Canadian stained glass at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont.

My interest in Canadian stained glass has taken me to many places and allowed me to hear some extraordinary stories. But none is as remarkable as the one I heard at Zion United Church in Markham, a charming Victorian building on Peter Street. Rev David Reid led me to a gallery walked off from the sanctuary and said, "I'd like if you'll have over some windows like this one."

It was absolutely breathtaking. The subject, the Good Shepherd, is a common theme, but the Christ figure is far from standard—a large figure with a happy and loving expression, and powerful hands clasping the lamb in his arms. The sheep around him are quite individual, and they're following him,

as opposed to the normal rather scattered flock. The large, irregular lettering differs markedly from any traditional style. But all that pales beside the suggestion.

First, the fact that there was one of all in stained glass, artists work for the studio company, and the only sign there is that of the firm. Not only was this window signed, but the name leapt off the glass—Frank Carmichael. I asked Rev Reid if the artist was the Franklin Carmichael, of the Group of Seven. He replied that the church had always presumed so, but had no hard proof.

About a year later, I went back to Rev Reid to ask if I could go through the church records. I found proposed dedication dates, a request of funds for a memorial window and the opening of a bank account to pay for it before I had proof positive. In the trustees' minutes dated July 8, 1904, was a direct copy

of a letter sent from Carmichael. It described the submission of two designs for approval, and a third quote: From Robert McQuibban (son of Toronto), a well-established stained glass company. The letter gives the same address—21 Cameron Ave., Lansing, Ont.—which is obviously established from as the Group of Seven member.

It appears from the documentation that Carmichael provided the preliminary water-colour sketch and the head-drawings, full scale (showing towers as a detail). It is likely he took part in any of the actual glass work, which was probably executed at McQuibban's under his supervision. The English cartoon and design for Zion United Church of the church, but might possibly be at McQuibban's. The drawings alone would be a treasure to discover, and part of the extraordinary story of this window.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANNE HARRISON FOR CANADIAN PRESS PHOTO ARCHIVE

MICHAEL S. / OCTOBER 31, 2004 31



LEGACY OF A DISASTER

Chernobyl's devastating impact is still being felt

"I SERVE HISTORY and not art," says Robert Polidori. "Bates of art, or art as a religion, do's interest me." The Missouri native calls himself a photographer of habitat, someone who captures "bits of our civilization or passage, what's left of people's lives and whole cultures' lives."

With his latest body of work, a collection of photos titled *Zones of Exclusion: Prigyet and Chernobyl*, Polidori traces the scars of the world's worst nuclear accident. On April 26, 1986, a reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine (then part of the U.S.S.R.) exploded during an ill-performed safety test. The accident resulted in the release of 200 times more radioactivity than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs combined, and was later estimated to have harmed as many as seven million people in some way. Seventeen years later, the concrete sarcophagus put in place to encase Chernobyl's damaged reactor is crumbling, and Prigyet, a town built for plant workers, remains unsafe.

Polidori began plotting his voyage to Chernobyl as early as 1995. After receiving permission to visit the site, he spent four days in and around the barren plant in June 2001, often working without a respirator because the mask made it difficult to focus his camera. "I was never really afraid," Polidori says. "Radiation is an invisible enemy." *Zones of Exclusion* now stands as the most extensive visual document of the Chernobyl disaster's aftermath. "To come out of this is a relief," he says. "It's a pain that wipes away God."

BRADY BOYLE

the control room for the plant's Unit 4 reactor, which exploded during a test



Clockwise from above: a kindergarten class in Phnom Penh, where it's still considered unsafe to live the contents of an operating room at a nearby hospital; an abandoned part of the River Project; engineers in the control room for Cambodia's Unit 2 reactor in June 2002



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TRAGEDY ON THE LAKES

The Great Storm of 1913's 'unprecedented violence' claimed some 250 lives

NO ONE ONSHORE in Marquette, Mich., could believe it. A fierce early winter storm had whipped Lake Superior into a frenzy, and yet the steamer Henry B. Smith, her hatch cover not yet raised, was backing out of her berth. Bound for Cleveland with a load of iron ore, the ship was in serious trouble as soon as she left the harbor. Pitching and rolling, she was unable to turn around and retreat to safety. The onlookers took her sight of the ship in the blowing snow. The Henry B. Smith was never seen again.

She was but one casualty of the Great Storm of 1913, which hammered the Great Lakes for several days in November. Winds of more than 100 knots raged for 16 hours, taking ice-crammed ships on the far-ranging winter lake seas. By the time it abated, 12 vessels roared at the bottom of Lakes Huron, Superior and Erie. Some 250 people died, the worst marine disaster in Great Lakes history. "No lake monster can recall a storm of such unprecedented violence with such rapid changes in the direction of the wind and its gusts at such fearful speed," reported the Lake Carriers Association afterwards. "The waves were at least 35 feet high, being of such height and building with such force and rapid succession, the ships must have been subjected to incredible punishment."

The storm's genesis was as a warm mass moving north from the Gulf of Mexico and an Arctic blast from Canada's northwest. By the time they collided on Nov. 7, 1913, gale warnings had been issued throughout the Great Lakes. But many captains seem to have been more afraid of their losses than of the weather. Early November was the end of the shipping season, and the shippers were urged to upsize the cargoes and plugging hatches. "A lot of these captains were under huge pressure from the owners to make that last trip before the season closed," says Clara Brode, director of the Huron County Museum in Guelph, Ont., on Lake Huron.

She was not uncommon in those days. They would simply upsize their hatches and try to make another delivery. "The ship cracked in two and quickly vanished. 'The Argus seemed to crumple like an eggshell,'" said her "Then she was gone."

Ninety years later, the Great Storm of 1913 has been commemorated by a small building on the shore of Lake Huron.

The result was tragedy of massive proportions. Most of the drownings took place on Lake Huron, where eight ships disappeared overnight on Nov. 10. One was the Argus, whose doctor was witnessed by Captain Walter Lee of a nearby ship. Her crew the Argus lifted out of the water by two huge waves, one in the bow and the other at the stern. With nothing to support the middle,

Muscon and the Bruce County Museum and Archives in Sarnia, Ont. The bodies, which were recovered throughout Ontario and Michigan for the next two years, contain recovered artifacts, including a diary and pocket watch belonging to Edward McCloskey, captain of the Argus, whose body washed ashore near Goderich six months after the storm. (Because his body was found)



she cracked in two and quickly vanished. "The Argus seemed to crumple like an eggshell," said her "Then she was gone."

Another casualty was the Sigsbee, which lowered her anchor at the south end of the lake and was abandoned by her crew of 23. None survived. When the ship's wreckage was found in 1986 near Ludington, Mich., the anchor was still buried in the lake bottom and the chest was still intact. For weeks after the storm, bodies and debris washed up, mostly on the Canadian side of Lake Huron. Financial losses totalled the millions of dollars.

Ninety years later, the Great Storm of 1913 has been commemorated by a small building on the shore of Lake Huron.

as long after the storm, it's believed that he stayed with the drowning vessel after ordering his crew to abandon ship.

There have been fewer Great Lakes storms since, such as a snow-blizzard in January 1978 that dropped up to 78 cm of snow, propelled by winds of up to 125 knots. And there have been horrific fires on the Lake Superior, such as the Edmund Fitzgerald on Nov. 10, 1975, 62 years to the day after the 1913 storm, with the loss of 29 lives. But there has never been anything as much as the Great Storm of 1913 and how lost. Due to better weather prediction and warning systems, not to mention sturdier ships, it's safe to say there probably never will be.



ARISTOTLE, GUMSHOE

A Canadian scholar has won fame for her ancient-world mysteries

MARGARET DOODY is a serious scholar, a professor of literature at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, with a Ph.D. from Oxford and a *v.e.* that has won her prestigious American universities and awards of numerous scholarly publications, including a history of the novel. She's also, incongruously, Canada's newest star in Italy, a country currently wild about her writing. Now Doody, 64, achieved this celebrity on the strength of a 25-year-old book, *Aristotle Detective*, a story with as many names as her mystery novel, reaching not only the Greek philosopher himself, but also Canadian thriller George Grant, as well as an Italian parable with a good eye and—quite possibly—the will of the gods.

Born in St. Martin, N.B., Doody went to Dalhousie University in Halifax in 1958, before moving on to Oxford, where she became a specialist in 18th-century literature. The period, she says, "seems down to the ground—very wary, very cautious, and far less sentimental than the 19th century." But Doody also admires the ancient world, a love cemented in her by the remarkable George Grant, who taught Dilworth's introductory philosophy course. Best known for his first Canadian novel, especially as reprinted in *Letters For a Sonnet*, Grant was also an extraordinary teacher. "He was so vivid himself," recalls Doody. "That he made them all come alive—Socrates, Plato, Aristotle—and gave us a sense of what it would have been like to know them."

One may spring right to Dilworth, noting that Aristotle's *Rhetoric* and thinking again of "how surprised by human weakness he was, how he had the disillusioned eye of a detective." Doody developed that basic concept of *Aristotle Detective*. In 1976, the novel came out in Britain to good reviews. Doody wrote a sequel, *Aristotle and Poirot Justice*. But the world had turned in the interim. Her publisher was bought out, her agent left the business, and so one seemed interested in the new book. Even before that, secretaries in Wales had thrown out the single typewritten copy of another novel—the one a work of literary fiction set in modern

Canada—after Doody had moved to California. "One of the biggest blows of my life," she writes of that day, "one almost replicated at Berkeley, where the middle 100 pages of yet another novel were lost. By 1982, says Doody, it seemed clear that the gods "didn't want me to write fiction."

Enter Tappe Bertram. 17 years later, Doody calls the journalist her resurrection Man—in 1999 he came across an abridged translation of Aristotle *Detective* and suggested to the Italian publishing house Sellerio that it issue a complete edition. There was a second printing within the year, and when Sellerio asked if there was any more, Doody was happy to pull *Poirot Justice* out of the drawer in which it had lain for almost two decades. Her popularity soared. She wrote a third installment, *Aristotle and the Seven of Life*, and on the strength of her Italian success, picked up a British publisher (she still doesn't have a Canadian one).

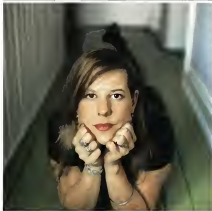
Asked why Italy was taken with her books, Doody points to their Mediterranean flavor, and her historical accuracy. They're also very good reads. Doody's Aristotle is her 18th-century personified. Witty, curious and unromantic, the philosopher delights in quizzing the idealism cultivated by his Dr. Wessons like *Ed*, *Surphano*. In an ironic twist, though, the heroes' fight of fancy-like his suggestion that it might be a good thing for African women to have some basic (very basic) civil rights—are often obvious to readers, while Aristotle's learned disavowal of female inferiority only shows that the greatest thinkers are limited by their time and place.

Doody has completed the first draft of a fourth mystery, and is pondering the fact that her series must inevitably come to the time when the Athletes turn on Aristotle, a resident foreigner, and drive him from the city. "He's just like me with my green card," jokes Doody, who mentions her Canadian citizenship. "Maybe I should raise warning from that," she laughs. But given her new writing launch on top of her distinguished academic career, Doody is not likely to share her character's fate.

The Greek philosopher, says Doody, "had the disillusioned eye of a detective"

HARD LANDING IN MOMSVILLE

In a funny first novel, a hip urban chick stumbles into unplanned family-hood



MOTHERHOOD For most, women never need to be a choice, it used to be a destiny. Now it's a choice and life's alibi, it is not only endlessly contested but it generously requires a level of consciousness in order to make the final decision. Unless you are Frances Muskewine, the thirty-year-old heroine of *Playing House*, a deft new comic novel by Canadian author Patricia Freeman. Frances—Freeman—seems to be wedged in a limbo space between Bridget Jones (single woman, ballbusts, looking for love) and Kate Winslet (married, hard-working mother of two in the Spanish South Sea) *I Don't Know How She Does It*.

A single woman with voice (her apert

Prattian drivers spithears with the laughs

ment's a mess, she drinks too much). From her life in New York, and it is love with her big city life and her even bigger career dreams as an editor at a publication (it probably named *The Polka-Dotter* that after herling into a sweater display as the Gap, she suddenly realizes she is accidentally pregnant by a man she just started dating. A man whose last name she can't even spell (Puddee? Puddyer?) Mind you, Calvin Puddee is a very nice man, one who doesn't even run away when he hears the news that Mr. Right? An impeccable rapier internal jazz musician from Cape Breton,

Calvin is "very, very quiet, really bordering on mute."

It is Freeman's disarming emotional wit in this funny and sometimes tender novel to come to terms with pregnancy and her new domestic life, because at 33 she's determined to go through with it. And so she needs to figure out the pieces of the puzzle life has handed her—"It. Man, a woman, a child."

Of course there are bumps along the way to maternal of not maternal (who carries anyone's?) Freeman goes home to Toronto to visit her coolly analytical mother, who chides, "you are a member of what must be the first generation of women in history to continue to postpone themselves in teenage mothers 15 years past high school."

Because of an immigration snafu, Frances gets stuck in Canada, where Calvin joins her to begin the march to parental bliss. *Playing House* doesn't get too logically tangled in fate, and avoiding potential clichés, where Freeman spins one pregnant woman "trudging like a pack mule with her stout husband shooing her along with one hand thrown at her back."

Even after Lester, her baby boy (presumably named after the author's grandfather, prize-winning Lester B. Pearson) is born, and Frances is not only starting the evolution of her new domestic life, as the fact but brutal feeding, she continues to fantasize about other lives and other men. Calvin may flee to New York briefly to play music, but Freeman is deep into commitment phobia banal? Only during a farcical visit to Calvin's Cape Breton family does Freeman begin to figure out how to embrace it all. Pearson, author of *When the Day After*, is

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NEW-NEW ROMANTICS

As they release their first album, Montreal's the Stills are already a hot band

INHALING RUNNY tears of eggs Benedict at one of Toronto's prettiest group spas, it's obvious that Dave Handala and Tim Fletcher are young rockers—from their swollen cheeks to the goop in their hair. Overbrodian the drummer and vocalist of Montreal's (surrealist) indie rock band the Stills look the part of fashion victims, Fletcher with electro-cardiac beards, Handala's David Strauss no longer has long hair with a side white hair.

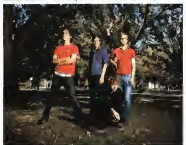
They deliver their own lyrics like rock 'n' roll veterans who know Sid and Nancy personally, though their band has released only one true rock EP and in late September was the opening act for the latter pool, another band barely out of the gate. "The Stills meter through casual, snazzy, 7-9-year-old Montrealer-voiced clubby splashes, and the effect is funny—it would be weird the band's saying and already being insightful. They seem to they are—frankly mislead rock stars—and if not having an act is their act, then their act is good because the audience is buying into it. Before the waitress brings coffee, the duo across a gaggle of teenagers who are hanging outside. At 11 a.m. on a school day.

It seems remarkable that a fledgling band could achieve fame without an album or their own act, but these days that's the way to the underground rock world. Like their contemporaries in the Reggae, the Irish Irish Yobs or the Whiskers—some of the "dis" bands who, since the turn of the century, have ridden a wave of media hype off their first EPs to become the holy-holy faces of new

music—the Stills are becoming increasingly known for their money pop.

Signed to Vice Records and distributed by Warner Music in Canada, the band's Oct. 21 debut, *Logic 999* (Rock Your Heart), is a 12-song collection of lo-fi rock covering overgrown, retarded melodies and drug-gang persecution. The record captures the surrealism of the previous evening at the unfortunately named Toronto venue Road

side-offering, an act who (Kudos!) and driven-headed, sex commercial companion (Moby), the Stills' sound resonates with critics. And they're the way for a slew of releases—including the Stills—with one fully single, one new studio album, *Bendable*, and a live album, *Live at the 9th*, already issued before a record label decided it was so. And like the broken before them, the Stills recorded their debut on New



Handala, Fletcher, Graw, Piquet: money pop

Hawa, the band played to a packed crowd, some of whom already knew Fletcher's lyrics. "A few years ago, music was totally dying," says 24-year-old Fletcher. "You had bands like Fuel, Smashmouth, Red Hot—there wasn't really an alternative and the mainstream was so bad. So there was a reaction."

Today's underground rock bands who achieve mainstream recognition owe much to the Stills, the New York City five-piece whose debut EP appeared in early 1999. Coinciding with cultural enthusiasm over hip-hop and rap, the Stills' sound is a mix of

York City "New York is a great town, but it's a great town," says Fletcher. "We're the Stills from Montreal, and that's home."

That about sums up the band's music. Like other bands from the city, including Godspeed You! Black Emperor and the Doves, the Stills' music has a degree of surrealism. The lyrics are often surreal. "I'm just so bored of wanting my time / Love and death are always on my mind," Fletcher sings in *Logic 999*. "I'm just so bored of wanting my time / Love and death are always on my mind," Fletcher sings in *Logic 999*. "I'm just so bored of wanting my time / Love and death are always on my mind," Fletcher sings in *Logic 999*.

And in *Logic 999*, he repeats the line "I'm just so bored of wanting my time / Love and death are always on my mind," Fletcher sings in *Logic 999*. "I'm just so bored of wanting my time / Love and death are always on my mind," Fletcher sings in *Logic 999*.

The Stills have killed the music, love and sex. But that's not everything. As a breakout band, the Stills are, they say, do you know any place around here to go to get your hair cut? The payoff will be a thing or two to learn.

INTERNET GUIDE

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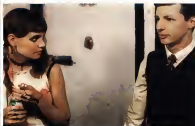
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Film | >



Helen Mirren (as Helen) and Peter Dinklage (as Peter) in *Station Agent*.

her eyes on a downtown neighbor (a droll Michael Gambon), she says, "You must assume I'm some stupid American bitch." His reply, "Oh, not at all, I assumed you were Canadian." And maybe that's the problem with this flick: She's too nice. Sylvia insists that "there's nothing behind my eyes—I'm a naive person," but I'm not convinced. She deserves to be at least as dark as her husband, not just the sad victim in a juicy tale of domestic violence.

If Sylvia is the gloomy glassy of the fall season, a redneck downer, then *Pieces of April* is the fall-good sleeper, an adorable comedy that's labeled like a flaming arrow into the big old heart of American Thanksgiving. But it, too, revolves around the story of a disaffected mother facing death. April (Kate Winslet) is a lovelorn punk orphaned from her mother, Joy (Patricia Clarkson), who's dying of cancer. To make matters, she volunteers to host Thanksgiving dinner at her squalid apartment, which she shares with her black boyfriend (Derek Luke) on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Trouble starts when the snow breaks down at April is about to cook the turkey. Soon she's knocking on neighbors' doors, trying to borrow an oven. Meanwhile, Joy and her messed-up family—a diagnosed dad (Oliver Platt), a goody-two-shoes daughter (Liaison Hill), her photographer brother (John Gallagher Jr.), and their senile grandma (Alice Drummond)—are back on a shambolic road trip to New York.

The low-budget feature debut from writer-director Peter Hedges—who scripted *When Harry Met Sally* and *About a Boy*—this

is a lot of broadly comic asides. As April tries to find a berth for her turkey, she meets a multicultural carnival of neighbors. And Helen seems too lovable for a bad girl who left such a grim impression on her family. But the movie has an irresistible, off-kilter charm. And Clarkson shines as the acerbic, and ironically named, Joy—a mother with a spruced lack of affection for her children.

Patricia Clarkson also figures in *The Station Agent*, another strong film feature that

THIS sleeper, a feel-good comedy, lobes a flaming arrow into the big old heart of American Thanksgiving

often an occasion in Hollywood formula. It's a beautifully spare story of three characters who strike up an unusual friendship in rural New Jersey. Peter (Peter Dinklage), a mild-mannered dwarf who inherits an abandoned railway station, Joe (Bobby Cannavale), a gregarious, rambling coffee vendor, and Olivia (Clarkson), a quarter-hiding from a tragic past. *The Station Agent* is a triumph of character over plot, of emotion over sentiment. And Dinklage projects a solemn charisma. In a story of small details—one first deal with the pain of his status without dwelling on it—he gives an unforgettable performance. **A**



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LAST PADDLE OF THE YEAR

Time spent in a canoe helps to lighten the dark days of autumn

THE SKY is flecked with silver. There is no moon tonight, so the stars take over. We head down a long, winding channel and the moon on either side close in, making a silent black tunnel through which we paddle. Cautious as in a moonless fall night is a magical mystery tour into the dark.

Above us brightness rains. The Milky Way is a billion tiny sparkles painted in a swath. Mars is no brighter as a beacon. Which we don't need. Twenty-five years of paddling Algonquin Provincial Park together have brought us husband, Lorne, and me woodland

harmony in the canoe. I never imagined we'd get this far. Who knew if he would stay the course, if we would manage to raise the kids. But I'm still in love with the man who walks through the door 17 times a day (yes, we sleep together and work toghether). I still feel happy most times I hear his footsteps on my floor.

As the canoe glides through the narrow channel, the moon on either side becomes silhouettes, green, cedar forests tall themselves on the darks, but there is comfort in their standing. We need each other in this season.

My new flashlight to get through here. The darkness hasn't changed, we are now few multiple paddles, but we have. We're about candy bushes and bad knees, and, the truth is, age is deepening our steps, tagging us as river paddle stragglers. The last paddle of the year has never been so poignant. I used to enjoy the certainty that spring would come for me and mine. This year, autumn carries more emotional freight.

We never imagined this would be the dark that threatened us. But suddenly, the deck is tilting. Being past 50 means your kids are looking to leave home. So are your friends. Young people diminish all the pleasures in the world about how they'll always come home at night, blab, blab, but I raise my kids today when they sleep in a new mother's bed. Leaving is grief for the two of them, a clear life adventure just begun when. I'm happy for them, and do proudly proud of what they are and all they can do. But the truth for me, as they're growing up still leaving home, I love more than I get

Being past 50 means you're losing your parents, too. We lost my mother-in-law on June 7. Mom, as I came to call her after our kids were born, knew what I'd go on June 7 because her husband died on June 7. And her beloved, Edna, was on Feb. 7, 2006. Mom was the more positive person I ever met. Her life, spread both wide and deep, was more delicious even than her legendary pie crust. Mom survived the loss of her eldest son, and figured out how to smile again. Can you say "rile model"?



Remember Mom's positive attitude might be necessary in middle age, thanks to the irony of lost Mom. Sober. My mom is a nursing home and my dad is nursing. Losing one's parents is terrifying on many levels, not the least of which is the mourning card it turns from joy. Fear of dying in my own company.

I never feel still in a canoe or scared of death. Achen and panache, the canoe is too enchanting to permit my habitual morbid fixation. I'm not self-diagnosed nervous of a glare and let's growing chestier. Instead, in the canoe I am capturing

at the night sky. The channel widens suddenly into a lake that is studded with bright white poplars, reflections of the stars above. One shore of the lake is a high ridge glided with big old white pines, their branches and needles frothy black against the celestial light above.

We hear the chime and chime of a looser geyser wind. And then, BANG, a loud sail. We have responded against Canada's national animal at work, and it signals our action.

We turn for home, dipping paddles in a river rhythm. Suddenly the sky is a canvas and sparkles even brighter. The tail of the Milky Way leads us home, a silvery banner pointing to the horizon. Our way lies between the Milky Way and Mars, which is still impossibly bright. Now the red planet's reflection is a long golden wand glimmering on the water. We are paddling toward the sky's midway at night, through black night.

The moment holds time, even in the dark autumn of soul as well as of calendar, when loss is the operative word. How to transform one's experience of middle age into something easier to bear? Logic suggests joy is to be found, since joy has been hiding around a corner as far as there is probably a self help book for that life change. It has

an alchemical life, such as How to Thrive in the Golden Years and How to Survive as a Widow. It tells you to rediscover your spouse and maybe join a book club, volunteer, take up a new hobby. But I never discovered joy behind. I read a lot and I already volunteer. Maybe the life change is like the midlife canoe ride—the light is a sea and the next corner and I don't see it yet. Perhaps one ought to consult one of the bands of our youth, Bob Marley, who preached: "Every little thing gonna be all right."

Joanne Kates is a Toronto-based environmentalist. To connect with her on Twitter, visit @joannekates.

HOW TO EAT A PIZZA.

(THE BAP WAY)



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CLOSING NOTES



People | Another California recall

Punchlines has always come naturally to **Shawn Majumder**. Upon learning in Grade 5 religion class that the cow is sacred in predominantly Hindu India, the Burlington, Nfld., native—of East Indian, English and Irish descent—raised his hand and asked: "So, when someone sneezes, should you say, 'Cow Blessings'?" His grade 11 class loved Majumder's wit to me since, as both an actor and comic in Canada and the U.S. It also helped him land his latest gig as the newest cast member of the CBC's *Two Hour Half 22 Minutes*. With Majumder joining regulars **Cathy Jones**, **Gug Thakur** and **Mary Walsh**, the latest cast of the satirical show now hails from Newfoundland according to Majumder, 31, who replaces **Colea Mohrlich**, that's one coincidence: "When you ask a question in Newfoundland," he says, "you usually get a straight answer."

Majumder got his start in Halifax's theatre scene, and was nominated for a Gemini Award in 1999 for the TV comedy special *On*

Fake newscaster **Shawn Majumder** moved to Halifax just for laughs.

1-1-1 DENIALS This May 11, 22 Minutes also makes it 8:30 p.m. EST on ONE TV.

The Edge It's also been moved to Hollywood, with a small role in the **John Cusack** car traffic commotion flick, *Parking 24* (1999), and more recently as a regular on the Fox TV variety show *Comedy for Entertainment*. Presently, he's now his own man to move from L.A. to Halifax, where the first network is produced. "American TV is all about the goofy jokes, but this is not just a policy joke show," Majumder says. "Canada's got a lot of its quirky sense of humour—and that's what we're going to do."

STEPHAN LEESE

LISTINGS

The Major Player
Oct. 22-25

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet presents the world premiere of this full-length production based on Mozart's opera. The ballet will tour four Ontario and the Western provinces. www.rwb.org/WwBorg



Unwashed A revealing look at the history of underwear. Until December 2000. Curated by **John Sepp**, a leading clothing collector in Canada, this Vancouver Museum exhibit presents men's and women's clothing from 1700 to 1900. www.museum.vancouver

Just for Laughs Comedy Tour
Oct. 21-22 New York
Sterling in St. John's, Nfld., and ending in Victoria, this 28-city tour by five comedians is hosted by **Rob McElhenney**. www.halifax.com

CD | What becomes of the broken-hearted rocker?

Just when it seemed, with *Trunkhead* (Capricorn, Oct. 10), the British press say he looks like **John Dwyer** and came to think of it: there is something ruled about this **Mark Dwyer** (it's music). In one track, *Don't You Come Back*, he sings of



being dumped, finding happiness with another and then being dumped by her too. *Trunkhead* was the former lead singer of **Thrush**. He will be in the lineup for the volume in its lineup to "his first track and more music."



Technology | Guillaume got game

Most Canadians missed the polaric war that swept through South Korea last week—even though 16 of our boys fought bravely, pounding keyboards and furiously clicking mice in an effort to beat back alien hordes and defeat terrorists. The World Cyber Games (www.worldcybergames.com), the largest international computer-game tournament, took place in Seoul last week, attracting around 640 gamers from 55 different countries—some of them professionals. And they weren't just after boasting rights. There was more than \$450,000 in prize money up for grabs.

Guillaume Perry led Canada's effort with a third-place finish in a strategy game called StarCraft. The 21-year-old Quebecer, who won \$6,590, has lived in Korea for the past four years and earns around \$100,000 a year in sponsorship and appearance fees. The grizzled veteran of the pro gaming circuit is so paranoid there and a maddo on the street by his fire. "I don't know how long I'll stay here, but I love it," he says. "I'm not coming home."

While pro gaming has found its place in some countries, **Andrew Hagg**, operations manager of WCO Canada, says none is picking up here too. More than 700 gamers competed in the national qualifiers in Mississauga, Ont., last month for a trip to the tournament. "The goal was to explode onto the scene and generate some heat," says Hagg. If blowing up bad guys continues to pique popular interest, then Perry might have some homegrown competition.

Games | Halo

Players stop a fight from escalating instantly in this Xbox exclusive, now easily available for PC gamers. Matches can be played with others over the Internet for a rush of action-movie mayhem. Who knew saving the human race could be so much fun?



Gadgets | PDA power

After suffering heavy losses following the tech sale of 2008, hand-held computer maker Palm Inc. released three new products this month to try to build on the success of last year's comeback and lure new customers.

At \$135, the Zire 21 is Palm's new bottom-dollar PDA (personal digital assistant). With 8 MB of memory, it offers the basic functions and doesn't accept memory cards. Its black-and-white screen has no backlighting. Function, which means you have to use it in a well-lit room.



Next up the line is the Tungsten E, which at \$200 has 32 MB of memory, a built-in audio player and a slot for memory cards. A drawback is there's no integrated camera.

The Tungsten T3, at \$300, boasts a 400-MHz processor, 64 MB of memory and a sliding feature that expands its colour screen by nearly an inch. It also plays movie and music files. The T3 does not, however, come with an integrated wireless connection like Wi-Fi, but users can still get online through a Bluetooth connection with a compatible cellphone.

Tools | Taking notes

Anyone who collects information all the Internet would give DiigoDate 2008, Microsoft's new note-taking program, a checkmark for use. Fishers and shepherds DiigoDate allows users to categorize and archive links, pictures

and snippets of Web pages into boards, which they can arrange. Although DiigoDate launches this week along with Microsoft Office 2008, it's being sold separately and costs \$300 (with a \$100 rebate for those customers of Windows programs).



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John Intini starts a sentence... Colin James finishes it

Colin James has revamped his sound on numerous occasions throughout his career—all the while maintaining a youthful glow. Last month, the 39-year-old from Vancouver released *Traveler*, his eighth album, on which he offers fans a more contemporary jazz sound than he did in the *Little Big Band* days of the 1990s. His recently finished Maclean's Researcher Reporter John Intini's sentences **PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW I OWN A...**—power washer. Men, can it clean my car, computer, peripherals—I love them all. They're also a big hit with my five-year-old son.

MY FAVOURITE CONDIMENT IS...—hot sauce. I like it on everything.
A DAY ISN'T COMPLETE...—unless I have a jog.
I'M CURIOUS ABOUT...—women. I think that's

all I have to say about this one. **PEOPLE ASK ME...** what was Steve Nieve. Vaughan like. They ask if I ever played his guitar. I opened for him, so I do have stories to tell.
A BROKEN GUITAR STRING... means you're working hard.

STAYING YOUNG... is something I get asked about all the time. A couple of years ago I saw Steve Winwood's manager for the first time since I opened for him about 15 years ago. He said, "Who the hell are you, Derek Clark?"

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Books | Who's really who in Canadian fiction

One of the more awful, not to mention entertaining, reference books to come along in years is Vancouver writer Brian Bailey's *Character Parts* (Knopf), a smorg of information on literary impostors. Richard Ford, the 1992 to 1993 stock as a novelist with his Indian trapper in *Honorable Men* (Life of Pi) turns out to be not so easily named as first appears. A deep-wounded cabin boy of the same name was killed and eaten by his adult friend's competitors in an 1897 *Requiem* for John G. Ford. And two historical Richard Forders also lost their lives to shipwreck and cannibalism in the 19th century. Then there are the modernists at literary seminars. Critic Robert Kuttner, for instance, has belated newspaperman Prince

Wheeler—described as a "jovial yachtsman with a 1936 left of face on leg"—in "Judas," a 1991 story by Margaret Atwood, who was herself pilloried in Ian Brummond's 1994 short story "The Lady of the Lake."



Best Sellers

Fiction

	WEEKS ON LIST
1. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	1
2. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	2
3. QUICKSAND , Fred Stephenson (3)	3
4. THE ISLAND HOUSE , John G. Ford (3)	4
5. THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHTTIME , Mark Haddon (3)	5
6. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	6
7. GABRIEL LAUREN , Elizabeth MacLennan (3)	7
8. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	8
9. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	9
10. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	10

Non-fiction

1. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	1
2. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	2
3. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	3
4. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	4
5. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	5
6. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	6
7. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	7
8. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	8
9. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	9
10. THE WAY THE CROW FLIES , Lisa Morton (Macmillan) (3)	10

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Sports | The daredevil inside the Diablo

Sas Whitham of Cabotville Island, B.C., has raced—and crashed—bicycles for 15 years. Whitham, 31, usually rides bikes like those in the Tour de France, but in September at the World Human Powered Speed Challenge in Turtle Mountain, Nev., he made—and crashed—a Varna Double, built by fellow islander George Georgiev. The five-speed Double bicycle, encased in a shell of carbon fibre and Kevlar, requires a rider to almost lie down. It looks like a pumpkin seed on wheels—but it's fast. At last year's speed challenge, Whitham rode it to a world record 129.6 km/h.

The Nevada track is a flat, straight stretch of highway where riders have about ten kilometers to get up to speed for individual time trials. This year, Whittingham's bike scatted hopping and making a racket, likely because a powerful crosswind had damaged the front tire. At about 130 km/h, the bike flopped around a lot. "There was this awful sound of the fumes rubbing against the



Whitworth rode the fastest bicycle ever:

was airborne—a mere off the ground. He flew about 30 in., touched down, gently pinwheelled for another 300 in., then veered off the road and landed in the sagebrush, still holding the handlebars. “I didn’t have a scratch on me, not a thing—no bruise, no scratches, no nothing.” Undeterred, Wittingham plans to take his refurbished Diablo to a test track in Ukiah, Tex., in November, where he’ll try to set an endurance record by riding 90 hrs in one hour. Anything less is good.

DANIEL HANSEN/STAFF

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MACLEAN'S





THE NEW CONSERVATIVES

One argument in favour of the merger is those who are against it

ENLIGHTENED SKINIS That's the greatest conceivable vote for the new Conservative Party of Canada (a suggested motto: "Some Of Us Used to Be Progressives"). The Tories and Canadian Alliance won 78 seats between them in 2000, so the new 200-seat Conservatives, that will turn into 300. If the Conservatives win more than 50 seats, it will mean Canadians are more pleased with this new party than they were with the last new party (Alliance); the previous one party (before), the Social Party before that (New Democrats); or the new party that's so old nobody remembers it (Newspaper Party) If they win fewer, those of us who called this

whole merger business a disservice from various quarters will look clever in retrospect.

I never made much secret of my belief that there is no point replacing two long parties that appeal to regional regions with a single boring party that appeals to regional regions. Either party could, at any point in its last decade, have done what the new party still needs to do: get a clear, winning program for government that appeals to Canadians. Its plan is currently as clear as some body's head: conservatism for Canada cannot be contained in the opposition side of the House.

But the Tories and Alliance never got around to it. (The Tories, actually, was on the right track by 1997. But then he started agonizing for the mission of Reform. Shocked. Was the shock he got? Perhaps that one party will be able to combine better, even the glorifying of the mission of unending merger talks is behind them.)

I have begun to think my opposition to the merger business has been wrong-headed. It was based on a false alternative to merge or I always thought that if the Alliance and the Tories ignored each other, each could build a winning program and let the voters pick the best. Silly me. It turns out that, for all-out one party, the middle conservative to end less, pointless merger talks was endless, pointless inertia.

Look at the early opponents to merge with the Alliance: David Orchard, Joe Clark, Senator Lowell Murray. Orchard was gone



was a genuine philosopher, but trying to keep him happy would require more work than the merger thing will.

Consider, though, Murray and Clark. There can be no more rising above men for any cause of action than the news that they are against it. Murray was certain Clark would win either the 1979 confidence vote that cost him his government, or the election that followed. Wrong, twice. He led the attempt to sell the Merrick Lake scandal as a test of Canada's right to exist. Now he will offer free advice to Conservatives in places like Alberta and Newfoundland, where provincial Conservative parties actually won the old election. One summer he will receive the attention he deserves.

Clark has more heart and more integrity than any 10 other politicians. But holy cow, look at his record. He spent 1979 demonstrating to an astonished nation that it is possible to be somebody less than Pierre

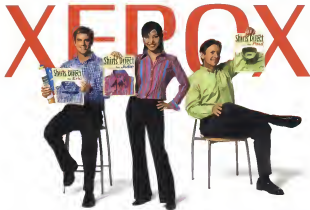
Elton Trudeau. He ran a federal campaign in 2000 whose television ads ("Liberal Lies") did not show the party's leader or discuss the leader's ideas. He essentially begged us to explain why Canadians should vote Tory. They obliged, giving the Progressive Conservatives their smallest share of the popular vote ever. The more time he spent on politics, the less we knew about how he would govern. He actually leaked information out of the national convention.

As news went on, if you opposed a merger or held no opinion, you found your circle of allies shrinking. In the end, all that is left are people afraid to contradict their party free of meaning or hopes that some day voters will want to vote on a clean slate. No wonder Brian Mulroney had had enough.

Mulroney isn't perfect—in the pages of the news business, we call that an "understatement"—but he rose to power on a determination to build confidence and be generous from the conviction the power should have a purpose beyond its own existence. Spurred suddenly in 1981, he told voters in 1983, if you don't want to see anything. Twenty years later, the partners of right-wing politicians are literally the same guys he was fighting back then. A quarter century after 1986, the big fight and comes down to Mulroney vs. Clark—not only is two to two, but to two sets of ideas about how to win. Peter Mulroney has spent most of his short political career answering to Clark, but when the crunch came, he failed to Mulroney. It was the right choice.

Something else: Jean Chrétien never joined the other parties into getting their act together. He looked like the kind of guy anyone could beat, so nobody ever did. And he sure as hell we didn't have let his chance of an election day become someone's half a year before time. In 1993 Paul Martin's fault if he gave his opponents a bigger target, but it is his fault that he gave them a deadline. At what cost? The 80-seat test will tell. ☐

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